

Needlepoint Now News



This month's newsletter includes:

Between the Threads
Stitching Tips
Coming in November
Our Northern Odyssey Tour
A Recipe for Hygge
Contest for Magazine Subscribers

One of the great pleasures I have in my job is that I get to visit needlepoint shops all over the country and the world. Recently I was in Tacoma, Washington, to take a Japanese Embroidery class from Mary Alice Sinton. Before I left, I had received a call from Mary Ward-Smith and Jill Likes inviting me to come and see the new location for The Needlepointer. They were moving from Everett, Washington, to Edmonds, Washington, and they were going to have an open house the weekend I was in the area. How lucky am I?

Jill Likes had taken over The Needlepointer from her mother approximately 18 years ago. With the addition of a thread line and representing new artists like Jennifer Tan of Pippin Designs, the existing space was no longer adequate for both the shop and wholesale business. Jill started searching for the Needlepointer's next home and found a building for sale that had recently been a dance studio; Jill's daughter had even taken dance classes there. Jill and her family, husband and father, quickly got to work remodeling the dance studio into a fantastic needlepoint shop.

The outside of the building looks like an arts and crafts movement bungalow but the inside is modern and bright with lots of space for a canvas room, thread room, classroom, mail order area and Jill's favorite area, a dyeing kitchen where she can dye large amounts of the thread we have all fallen in love with, Straw Silk. Jill is proud that this special building went from being the home of one woman's passion to the home of another woman's passion.

I asked Jill, "How did you get into dyeing thread for needlepoint?" She told me that she and found this fantastic ribbon like thread that is actually strandable silk from the knitting industry. She tried stitching with it and was amazed at its versatility. It can be used as is to get a highly textured look. It can be split in half to get a lighter look or to use on a finer mesh canvas. It



looks great when ironed and laid flat. Jill approached the distributor of this wonderful thread about selling it to her in bulk so she could divide it into small quantities appropriate for the needlepoint industry and sell it wholesale to shops. There were about 17 colors available at that time. The offer was accepted and Jill embarked on her new job as a thread distributor. Unfortunately, the knitting distributor reneged on the deal shortly after Jill started selling the new line and she was out of the thread business as fast as she had gotten into it.

Jill's good friend Tracy, from Planet Earth Fibers, encouraged her to find a source for the raw thread and to dye it herself. Tracy told her, "You can dye it in your kitchen over the weekends." Jill was reluctant to turn her kitchen into a dyeing studio but she believed in Straw Silk so much that she decided to give it a try.

There were limits to how much material she could dye on her kitchen stove top and the orders were coming in fast! The new kitchen is set up as a commercial kitchen with a large Dacor gas stove and plenty of room for drying racks so that Jill will be able to massively increase production.

She dyes the thread in 250g hanks and divides it into the 11 yard cards that are available at your favorite shop. Straw Silk is now available in 77 colors but with the new space, Jill will be expanding the color line soon.

If you find yourself in the Seattle area, I recommend a visit to the Needlepointer. Their new address:

22811 100th Ave W
Edmonds, WA 98020.



The Canvas Room

The Thread Room





Stitching Tips

Gauging Your Thread Needs

While at The Needlepointer, I met the manager, Brian Shaw. Besides managing the shop, he designs and teaches needlepoint.

Brian says that if you are not sure how much thread is needed for a project, cut the skein or card of thread in half. Put one half aside. Using the other half to stitch, it will be easy to judge when you are halfway done with the project if you will have enough left to finish.

If you see that you will need more, order right away and blend the half you had set aside with the new thread, so it won't be obvious if the dye lots are different.



Coming in November/December 2017



Joy Ride

Canvas by Love You More;
Stitch Guide by Sherri Lee Bray.



3-Dimensional Gingerbread House

Canvas By Pepperberry Designs;
Stitch Guide by Timmy Schultz



Whimsical Santa Face

By Lee's Needle Art;
Stitch Guide by Cynthia Thomas



Santa and Star

By Stephanie Stouffer



Light the Candles

Canvas by Marnie Ritter



Christmas Tree Banner

By EyeCandy Needleart

Needlepoint Now & The Stitchery

PRESENT:

A Northern Odyssey Tour October 14th-25th, 2018 LONDON & YORKSHIRE

Eleven days of travel and adventure in the United Kingdom. Palaces, museums, art galleries and more. Wonderful meals and luxurious accommodations. New stitches and exclusive projects.

Isn't it time?

For more information and to register for our tours, please visit our website or call:

www.needlepointnow.com/tours

541.935.0238

Won't you join us? The clock is ticking.

In just under a year, our Northern Odyssey will be kicking off in cosmopolitan London where you will have the opportunity to visit some of the sights of this incredible city and spend a day at the world-famous Royal School of Needlework based at the Tudor Palace of Hampton Court.

Our tour will go on to tour Yorkshire, a region of stunning hill scenery, fascinating towns and cities, including medieval York. We will have a tremendous program of events and visits to this beautiful region.

The tour will end at Woburn, just north of London, where we will visit the famous Woburn Abbey Stately Home, where we'll walk through about five hundred years of history, as well as the world-renowned gardens.

On our journey, we will sample award-winning cuisine at top-class hotels and restaurants, while at the same time we shall be stitching beautiful projects inspired by our Odyssey. And we hope you'll be part of it.

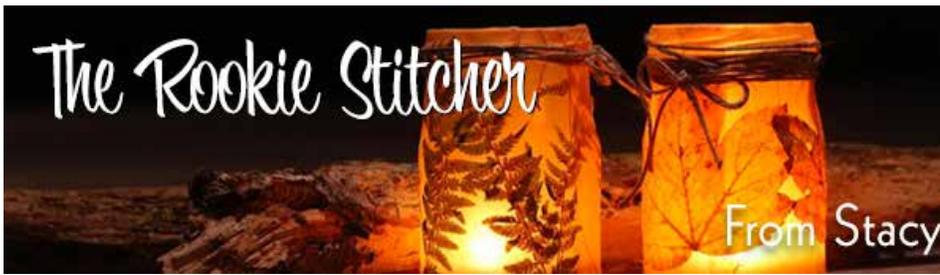
For more information, please visit our website:

www.needlepointnow.com/jeremy-elizabeths-northern-odyssey-tour-of-the-united-kingdom/

Share Your Stories

Readers, we'd love to hear how you started stitching, what your favorite projects have been, your stitching adventures and travels, and more.

We'd really like share your stories in our newsletter. Please send them (along with any photos you'd like us to include) to Stacy, our Rookie Stitcher at graphics. needlepointnow@gmail.com



A Recipe for Hygge

Hygge? What on earth? Hygge is one of those magical words that is hard to translate into English, but in Scandinavia it means everything cozy and warm and charming about winter. If you've ever cuddled under a throw, near a crackling fire, with a mug of something warm and sweet at your elbow, you've experienced hygge. In my opinion, it's the perfect word to apply to stitching on a winter's evening.

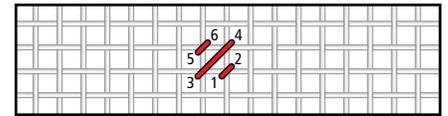
Pronounced "hue-guh", the concept of hygge comes to us by way of Denmark, where it's used for the feeling of contentment you get when you are enjoying the simplest and best things of everyday life, particularly during the long, dark winter. Hygge can be as simple as reading a good book with candles lit nearby, sharing comfort food with friends, basically anything simple, cozy and happy.

Isn't stitching one of the happiest things we get to do as needlepoint enthusiasts? I'd like to offer you a "recipe" to take you through an evening or two of hygge, to make your winter just a little cozier

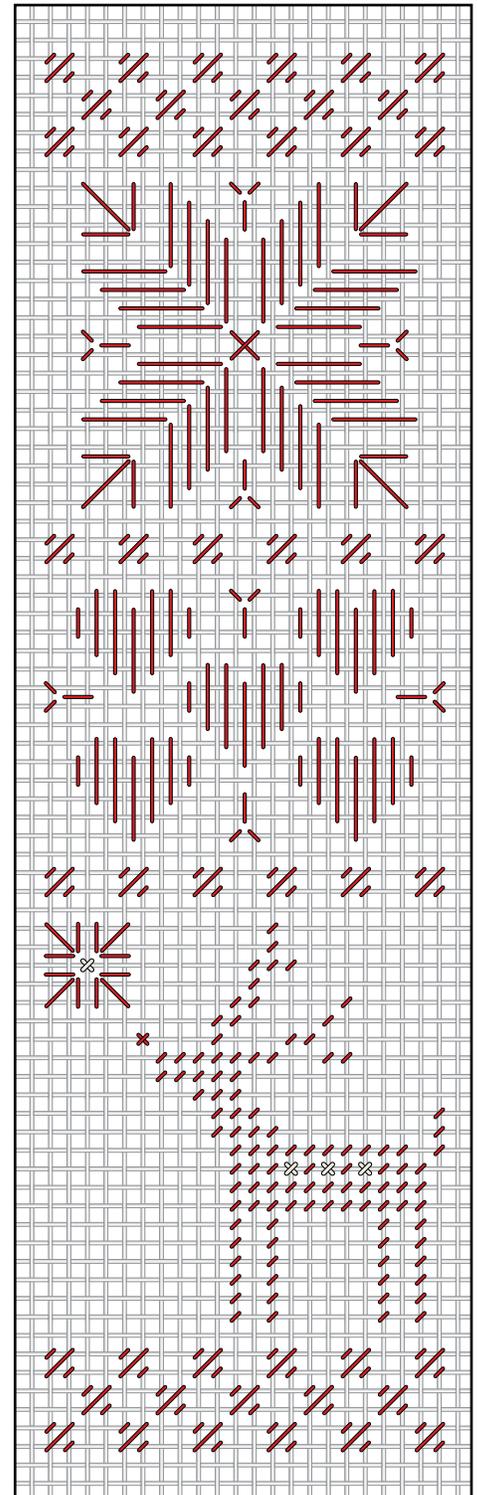


Scandinavian Folk Bookmark

The bookmark's design was inspired by traditional Scandinavian folk patterns. I've used about 6 yards of single strand Caron Watercolours 221 Bittersweet for the foreground pattern, but any bright, warm red would work. The background is Caron Watercolours 096 Orange Blossom (I have such a soft spot for the Watercolours!). This a great



Mosaic Stitch



project for using up smaller lengths of thread and odds and ends of canvas. I used white 14-count mono canvas.

To work the design, stitch from the top down, putting in the pattern before the background. The checked borders are worked in mosaic stitch. The snowflake and hearts are done in a satin stitch, and the reindeer is done in a tent stitch. I worked the background in tent stitch, but you might try some other stitches, such as mosaic or brick stitch. When stitching the background, be sure to slide the background stitches underneath the pattern stitches.

To finish the bookmark, stitch around the edges in a corded outline stitch (see our Jan/Feb 2017 issue, "Details That Make A Difference"). Fold the edges of the canvas under, and whipstitch the piece to a backing of wool craft felt. You could add a simple tassel by looping it through one of the the outline stitches at the top of the bookmark.

Have fun and stay cozy!



If you'd like to try a marvelous Nordic mulled cider to sip as you stitch, simmer some apple cider with a few raisins, a cinnamon stick, a couple of cloves, a cardamom pod, and a sprinkling of ginger and orange or lemon zest, for about 10-15 minutes. It will make your home smell divine and it tastes even better.

Needlepoint Now & The Stitchery

We want to give you the experience of a lifetime: eleven days in England, ten incredible dinners, nine stops for shopping, eight happy hours, seven historic villages, six guided tours, five museums, palaces and galleries, four amazing projects, three luxurious accommodations, two English gardens, and a visit to Stonehenge.

Any partridges or pear trees are up to you.

For more information and to register for our tours, please visit our website or call:
www.needlepointnow.com/tours
541.935.0238

Wild West Tour
April 15th-26th, 2018
LONDON & CORNWALL

Magazine Subscribers – Enter to Win!

Congratulations to our winner in October's drawing! Pat Volkening of Texas is the lucky winner of the Bar Huggers. Our next drawing will be for one of our always useful and highly portable snap trays in sunny gold and green.

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 will take place on December 15, 2017.

contest@needlepointnow.com
(541) 935-0238

A wooden basket filled with embroidery supplies, including a framed needlepoint canvas of a house, a sign for a "Rolling Stitch Tour", and various threads and tools.

*Stitch & Sight See
and
Needlepoint Now*

Join us on our
Rolling Stitch Tour
May 3 – 12, 2018

Ten fun-filled days of stitching, six different needlepoint shops, exclusive classes, shopping, sight-seeing, wine tasting, Shakespeare and more.

To learn more and register:
www.needlepointnow.com/tours/a-rolling-stitch-party-and-shop-crawl/
Canvas by Melissa Shirley, Stitch Guide by Laura Taylor

This is the print version of our free bi-monthly e-newsletter. To receive the electronic version, please subscribe here:
<https://www.needlepointnow.com/newsletter/>

Needlepoint Now is the only commercial magazine dedicated solely to the art of needlepoint. Each issue includes a range of projects, complete with detailed instructions and stitching guides, features offering tips and techniques, current news, product reviews and introductions to both new and established designers and teachers.