



METROPOLL EGA

Metropolitan Region of the Embroiderers' Guild of America

From the Region Director

Summer 2024

Happy Summer!

Speaking of summer, do you find you stitch more in the summer or the winter? I think I tend to stitch more in the winter because I'm indoors more. However, the days are longer and sometimes it's nice to stitch outdoors.

Registration is now open for our 2025 region seminar Stitching at the MET Gala. This is the first region seminar since 2019. Please see Janice Meyer's article for further information.

We will be updating our website. Stay tuned for details.

I would like to congratulate Pat Conway, winner of the Gold Thread Award for the MET region. Pat is a member of Long Island, Manhattan, and Suffolk County chapters. She has served her chapters and the region in a variety of positions. Congratulations Pat!

I will be attending the national committee and board meetings this August in Atlanta. One of the topics will be what we can do at both the national and region levels to support the chapters. If you have any particular concerns or ideas, please contact me by August 1st via email mariathall@msn.com.

In closing I would like to thank all the volunteers (region officers, committee chairs, chapter officers, chapter committee chairs, etc.) for all the work you do. You are the ones that keep this organization going!

Happy Stitching!

Maria

TO ALL CHAPTERS

Please exchange your **CHAPTER NEWSLETTERS** with all chapters in the region via our Groups.io account. Newsletter editors, please contact Ginny Thompson at: gthompson@temarikai.com for assistance. It is nice to see what other chapters are doing.

All **Chapter Officer and Committee changes** are now handled through the form provided on the EGA National website under Tools for Chapters.

METROPOLL is issued two times a year

Winter: deadline is December 15

Summer: deadline is June 15

If deadlines need to be changed an email will be sent to all Region and Chapter officers and chairs.

METROPOLL is distributed to every region member. It is also available under files on <https://metroregionega.groups.io> All Region officers, committee chairs, and members are invited and encouraged to contribute to this newsletter. Articles should be sent to the Newsletter Editor.

EGA Statement of Purpose - The purpose of this organization is to inspire passion for the needle arts through education and the celebration of its heritage. (EGA By-Laws, Article II)

REPRINT PERMISSION: All EGA chapters have permission to reprint any material found here except items copyrighted which will be clearly marked.

Chapter membership shall be open to any individual interested in furthering the purpose of this organization upon payment of dues. Membership may not be limited in number or group of people and must be nondiscriminatory with regard to race, gender, religion, national or ethnic origin. (By-Laws Article III).

**Metropolitan Region Board of Directors
Embroiderers' Guild of America**

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REGION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

NATIONAL NEWS

Strategic Planning Progress: This past year has seen intensive work by almost 50 volunteers on the various initiatives of the “Securing Our Future” project. The Board formally kicked off this important initiative at the Planning meetings during the August 2022 Board session. The various working groups began meeting on a regular basis to develop strategies to accomplish the goals of the initiatives, keeping in mind our ultimate goals: Closing the Gap (securing our financial future); Building Stronger Chapters and Member-at-Large Engagement (staving off Chapter dissolution and recruiting a broader base of membership); and Growing Our Educational Opportunities (determining the wants and needs of our modern audience and advancing our programmatic strategies to meet those wants and needs). The Planning focus at the March 2024 mid-year Board session was on the SOF initiative, with presentations from each working group and discussion with the Board at large. The teams are making great progress. Each has accomplished significant goals, introducing new processes and programs for the membership. These accomplishments:

- Changing to a “first come, first served” model for National Seminar registration.
- Amending the EGA bylaws to allow for “one member, one vote” voting in National elections to allow members at-large to participate.
- Introducing a new Virtual Education Course program (beginning with a virtual blackwork workshop with Carolyn Standing Webb in early 2024).
- Upgrading the Virtual Lecture Series program to allow for greater attendance for the live lectures and providing recordings of the lectures (for some of the presentations).
- Launched extensive surveys to Chapter members and members at-large (current and former) to ascertain a number of important factors, including: why one is a member; why does one renew; how does one utilize the EGA website; knowledge of EGA resources and their value to the member; knowledge and participation in selected education programs and Region offerings; and awareness of EGA’s social media presence. Results from these surveys are helping to guide plans for future EGA programs and projects.
- Introducing a new concept to National Seminars (effective at the 2024 Seminar): a retreat-style “Stitchin’ Time” offering that will be available to both traditional Seminar attendees and those new to EGA Seminars.
- Reimagining how to engage members at-large so that they have a sense of community within EGA.
- Providing the means for electronic dues collection through the National website, giving members the ability to pay digitally (beginning in 2024).
- Analyzing the needs of Regions and Chapters in order for them to grow and continue to be viable.

- Providing an easier process for Chapters to become satellites of other Chapters.
- Changing the requirement for forming a new Chapter from 15 to 10 members and eliminating the requirement that the founding members be primary members of the new Chapter.
- Reviewing the Petite Projects available to members; updating the instructions where appropriate and retiring projects that are out of date.
- Introducing the “Projects from EGA’s Past” series, which includes patterns gifted to EGA from generous designers that are available as downloadable PDFs via the EGA Shop on the website.
- Launching of the “Growing Your Chapter” webinar series to help chapters increase their membership numbers, set up special interest groups, build effective websites, and more.
- Simplifying the chapter and region logo approval process.
- Developing new guidelines for chapter websites along with an easy-to-use template for building websites.
- Creating online special interest groups.
- Attracting diverse bloggers to be featured on the EGA blog.
- Providing tools to teach stitching to youth.
- Launch a new Young Adult membership level, which includes a digital subscription to Needle Arts.
- Working with HQ staff to make the EGA website more user-friendly; while begun in 2023, this effort will ramp up in 2024.

There are many other initiatives on which the teams will be working through 2024. There is still much to be done. Anyone who is interested in participating in this endeavor should contact Karen Hamilton at president@egausa.org.

Annual Reports: The 2022 Annual Report is available on the EGA website. Also the “Landmark Events and Decisions” section on the About Us page on the website has been updated. The 2023 Annual Report will be available later in spring 2024.

Electronic Newsletters: The monthly e-newsletters continue to provide a mechanism for the dissemination of timely information, both to the members and to non-members through the Needlework Network version. Included in the e-newsletter to members is a short message from

the president. Subjects for this message have included promotion of GCC Lightning Rounds, reminder to vote in the National election, urging people to apply for various scholarships, promoting the Extended Study Program, promotion of the annual national seminar, and announcement of the new Life membership fee. Headquarters sent numerous emails promoting upcoming lectures, education programs, and other opportunities, as well as a reminder to all members to be on the lookout for scam emails masquerading as official EGA correspondence.

Through the Needle's Eye: a virtual exhibit that debuted at the 2023 Boston National Seminar. An in-person exhibit was displayed at headquarters in Louisville from July 2023 through January 2024. There were 93 initial entries for the exhibit. The judges and jurors, keeping to extremely high standards, reduced the final number to 58. One member withdrew one of her pieces as all 4 submitted had been accepted.

Education

Projects from EGA's Past: We continue to add Projects from EGA's Past to the EGA Shop. These projects are available immediately as pdf downloads. These projects have been generously donated to EGA by the designers or their representatives. The proceeds from these sales support EGA.

EGA Study Boxes: The EGA Study Boxes were reviewed with a few changes to the contents of those boxes. Some of the boxes were updated to lower the shipping costs. The updated boxes now come in three parts: Part One is an electronically transmitted project or group of projects using the technique presented by the box. Part Two is a box of samples of the technique, often with descriptions of the samples. Part Three is a list of related books some or all of which will be sent (via book rate) as selected by the requesting organization. This is an optional part of each Study Box.

Marketing and Membership

Sponsored Podcasts: EGA sponsors one podcast: *FiberTalk* with Gary Parr. Gary Parr offers one sponsored podcast per month during which he promotes EGA, however in addition to the formal sponsorship he also regularly talks about current EGA events and offerings during his weekly Wednesday podcasts.

EGA Stitch-a-long Facebook Page (EGA SAL): The page continues to engage both EGA members and non-members by offering monthly free projects. Regions and Chapters recently were encouraged to advertise events on the Events tab. This page is managed entirely by three Chapter members.

REGION NEWS

Chat with the RD: Started as an outreach to the chapter presidents in 2021. Have expanded to include region representatives and any chapter member interested. Will be expanding to include any member interested and will send out an announcement via groups.io. They are usually on the third Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm via Zoom. We will pause during the summer.

Website: The region website needs to be updated. We have formed a committee and will begin work shortly.

Region Interest Groups: Another offering the Region will be kicking off this year is online interest groups. Nancy Knowles has graciously volunteered to chair this group. If anyone has any ideas or would like to chair an individual group, please contact Nancy nancy.7991@yahoo.com or me.

Maria Hall, Region Director

REGION EVENTS

Registration is now open to all to attend **Stitching at the MET Gala 2025**. This event will be held at the Montvale Courtyard Marriott Hotel, 100 Chestnut Ridge Road, Montvale, NJ, 07645, on Saturday and Sunday, April 26 and 27, 2025. Attendees will have the option of taking a two-day class or stitching in our Stitching Room on Saturday and/or Sunday. Attendees are not required to stay at the host hotel and will be able to take advantage of the many reasonable restaurants in the area. Those attendees wanting to stay at the host hotel will be provided with a link to book their hotel room. More information is below.

Registration Information:

To register for a class during Regular Registration: EGA members will be able to register for one of three classes offered on a first come, first served basis. Regular registration will close on December 5, 2024. The Seminar Fee is \$175. A non-refundable deposit of \$40 must accompany the registration form and will be applied to the Seminar Fee. The balance of the Seminar Fee (\$135) and the applicable kit fee is due by December 5, 2024. Please note that the Seminar Fee balance and/or the kit fee payment not received by the due date will incur a late charge of \$10 each for a maximum of \$20.

To register for a class after Regular Registration has ended: Late registrations received between December 6, 2024 and March 1, 2025 will be subject to class availability. EGA members are asked to contact me prior to sending the form and payment in full.

Classes offered: Three 2-day classes are being offered – Warwick Cosmos by Katherine Diuguid, Mrs. Sparkles by Dawn Donnelly and Batik to Stitch by Laura Smith. The class pictures, descriptions and pertinent information are on the attachment.

To register for the Stitching Room: EGA members and guests are welcome to register for either one day (Saturday or Sunday) or both days in the Stitching Room. Registration will close on February 26, 2025. The registration fee is \$50 for both days or \$30 for one day. Please note that this registration fee is non-refundable.

Please complete one of the applicable registration forms and send that form along with your check made payable to “Metropolitan Region EGA” to Janice Meyers.

Hotel Information:

The Montvale Courtyard Marriott Hotel is a unique upscale hotel. Centrally located among all of the excitement of New York City, Bergen County New Jersey, Rockland County New York, and just 30 minutes from the Meadowlands Sports Complex and American Dream. The hotel is less than a mile from the Garden State Parkway, exit #172 and about 3 minutes from the New York/New Jersey border, making this location very convenient for our Region members, regardless of where they live.

No food will be allowed in the classrooms/stitching room, but the hotel does have a bistro/lounge area on the first floor in which you can bring in food for lunch or dinner. The bistro is open for breakfast from 6 am – 10 am on weekends.

Any lighting and/or magnification needed must be battery operated as no electrical cords are allowed. Also, pack a nametag in your stitching bag as none will be provided.

Traveling to the Montvale Courtyard Marriott Hotel via Train:

NJ Transit offers train service from Penn Station to Montvale, NJ. The Montvale train station is about a 6 minute drive from the hotel. The hotel suggests using Uber to get from the train station to the hotel.

Sleeping Room Information:

We have made arrangements with the hotel for a contracted sleeping room rate of \$199 per night (Friday, April 25 and/or Saturday, April 26) for either a single or double sleeping room, plus taxes. Attendees must make their own reservations.

The link:

<https://www.marriott.com/event-reservations/reservation-link.mi?id=1714477799834&key=GRP&app=resvlink>

Please note that there is a drop-down list to select the nights. Sleeping room reservations must be made by March 25, 2025. The hotel also has several ADA compliant sleeping rooms. All sleeping rooms have in-room coffee service and a refrigerator. Free Wi-fi is also provided.

Dining Information:

For your dining pleasure there are many options available. Attached to the hotel is the Fire and Oak Restaurant that is open for dinner on weekends. Within minutes of the hotel are many other restaurants and casual dining including Wegmans and Whole Foods. Further information will be provided at a later date.

Metropolitan Region Seminar Scholarship:

The winner of the Metropolitan Region Seminar Scholarship is Cecelia Zeichner from the Manhattan Chapter. The runner-up is Kathy Sullivan, Monmouth Chapter.

We hope that you can join us! For more information and/or questions, please contact me at GrayceeDM@aol.com.

Janice Meyers, Region Events Chair

CHAPTER NEWS

FAIRFIELD COUNTY CHAPTER had a variety of educational projects this winter/spring season. We used our Region education grant this year for a group correspondence course “Love and Laughter” by Denise Harrington Pratt. Six of our members are working on this counted thread technique course, which has 3 different projects to choose from: a large sampler, a mini sampler completed with hemstitching or a runner. You may choose whatever size you like. The colors and stitches used are lovely.

We also invited a zoom lecturer from the Royal School of Needlework (RSN). Dr Susan Kay-Williams, Chief Executive of the RSN, discussed samplers in the RSN’s Collection from the 18th 19th and 20th centuries from Britain and Europe. The RSN Collection of textiles has been donated so the collection is very eclectic and varied, especially the sampler collection which has both ‘classic’ types and more unusual ones, as well as schoolgirls’ samplers comprising both different types of embroidery and plain stitching.

We worked on a needlebook of Wessex Embroidery, authored by Kathi Green. This very unique set of stitches was essentially developed in the late 1800’s by Mrs. Margaret M. Foster (1843-

1933+) of Bath, County Wessex, England. It enjoyed a period of popularity in the 1920's and 1930's, including an exhibition in 1929 or 1930 in Bath and an exhibit in London's Medici Galleries. The project may be found on the EGA website if you search for "free" or "Wessex." Marietta Douglas was juried into EGA's Fiber Forum for the third time.

The FCC-EGA held two month long embroidery exhibits at two libraries in our chapter area (May - Fairfield, CT and Easton, CT) to celebrate our 50th Anniversary and to increase community awareness of the benefits of EGA membership. The exhibits included a wide variety of stitching techniques (cross stitch, surface, needlepoint, knot work, beading, ribbon, pulled thread, hardanger, rozashi, boutis, etc.), subject themes (holiday, florals, architecture, quotations, etc.), and varied uses for embroidery (lockets, beaded jewelry/embellishments, christening attire, ornaments, greeting cards, etc.). Included in each exhibit was signage, a take home brochure, and a concurrent article in the library's monthly newsletter which gave a brief history of the EGA, membership benefits (project focused meetings with personal assistance, a bi-monthly national journal, on-line educational programs, and regional and national seminars), and contact information.



The FCC-EGA has continued with our outreach program supporting the Whittingham Cancer Center in Norwalk, CT. This year we made fiftyeight (58) fleece hats in a variety of subtle colors/patterns and thirtyfour (34) hand embroidered cancer ribbon notecards in a variety of cancer representing colors. Each hat/card included contact information for the EGA.

FLEMINGTON STITCHERS' CIRCLE participated in Hunterdon County Community Day. The chapter collected women's clothing for donation..

MOHAWK VALLEY CHAPTER is having a good season. Our membership has grown. June brought our Spring Retreat, now extended to 4 nights.

The month of July has a display at New Hartford Public Library, with 4 stitching in public dates.

In September we host national teacher Kathy Andrews for a crewel embroidery class.



The **NEW YORK CAPITAL DISTRICT CHAPTER** has been asked by the NY State Department of Parks, Recreation and Historic Preservation to reproduce an historic sampler. The sampler was completed in 1838 by Catharine Vanderlyn, niece of John Vanderlyn, a painter well-known in the nineteenth century. She was 11 at the time.

The sampler was stitched on 28 count linen with silk floss. It is all cross stitch over 2 except for the verse and attestation which is over 1. It is approximately 17 inches square.

The sampler resides at the museum on the grounds of the Senate House Historic Site In Kingston. It has been on display for many years and the concern is that it is starting to deteriorate. The curator feels that alternating displaying the reproduction with the original will extend the life of the sampler. When the reproduction is on display, there will be signage giving credit to the Chapter.

A group of 9 of our members started graphing the sampler in January. Once it was graphed on paper, one of the group converted it to an Excel spreadsheet. Graphing did present several challenges. Although we had access to both front and back of the sampler, it was very difficult to get the colors correct. Catharine used very similar colors in several areas and there was fading. That made determining the start and end of colors very difficult. She was also only 11 and made some interesting mistakes. We had to decide how to deal with them consistently. That phase is now complete and it's on to stitching. We will be starting this as soon as we have all materials needed. We hope to have it finished in early 2025.

Commonly known to Needleworkers as "Woodlawn," is an exhibit that is held each March in Arlington, VA. Several members of **SKYLANDS STITCHERS** contributed to the 61st Annual exhibit, and the following individuals received awards:

Amy Bretan: First Place in Canvas Work Multi-Stitches for "Pyramids of the Oasis"

Sue Chadwick: Second Place in Canvas Work Multi-Stitches for "Confetti"
and Honorable Mention in Canvas Work Multi-Stitches for "Medieval City"

Rosie Lunde: Third Place in Canvas Work Multi-Stitches for "Africana"

Linda Mosch: Third Place in Surface Embroidery Crewel for "Jacobean Fantasy"
and Third Place in Counted Thread and Sampler Multi-Stitch for "Fruit of Her Hands"

The following excerpt is from the Woodlawn Pope-Leighey House website should you want a frame of reference for the exhibit.

Woodlawn, built in 1805, was gifted to Eleanor Parke Custis and Lawrence Lewis by George Washington. Woodlawn operated as a plantation where the family enslaved more than ninety men, women, and children of African descent. After the Lewis family sold the property to Quakers, Woodlawn became a free labor colony in the years prior to the Civil War.

The Frank Lloyd Wright designed Pope-Leighey House was built for Loren and Charlotte Pope in Falls Church, Virginia. The home was saved from demolition by the second owner, Marjorie Leighey, when it was moved to Woodlawn in the 1960s. Today, visitors can explore the only Frank Lloyd Wright home open to the public in the D.C. area and be inspired by Wright's Usonian architecture and a vision for affordable, well-designed housing.

As a site of the National Trust for Historic Preservation, Woodlawn & Pope-Leighey House believe all Americans deserve to see their history reflected here. These historic sites are dedicated to filling in the gaps of our cultural heritage, especially the stories of enslaved people, free Black communities, and their descendants.

SKYLLKILL CHAPTER'S Annual Flea Market is coming - July 10th, 2024!! 10am to 1pm. Doors open at 10am for you to enhance your stash with just about anything stitchery-related: fabrics (stitching and sewing), threads & fibers, needles, tools, notions, beads, books, patterns, kits, yarns, frames, hoops, storage, trims (you get the idea). All merchandise is sold by the bagful - fill a standard size grocery bag for \$7 (or 2 bags for \$10). You can't beat that deal! The Flea Market is being held at Freedom Plains United Presbyterian Church, 1168 Rt. 55, Lagrangeville, NY (it's right off the Taconic Parkway). All sales final, cash or check only. No children under 12, please. Questions? Email us at egaskyllkill@gmail.com

CHAPTER INFORMATION

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