



METROPOLL EGA

Metropolitan Region of the Embroiderers' Guild of America

From the Region Director

Winter 2025

Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had a great holiday and that 2025 will be a great year for everyone!

Speaking of the New Year, we have lots planned for 2025. We have a new and improved region website. Thank you, Ginger Iorizzo, for making this a reality.

We are also debuting our first region special interest group, Counted Canvas, on January 26, 2025. This will be a virtual group and will be led by Marietta Douglas. We hope to form other interest groups. Thank you, Nancy Knowles, for chairing this committee and thanks to Marietta for leading the first group.

Registration is open for our 2025 region seminar *Stitching at the Met Gala*, which will include an in-person stitching room in April and two virtual classes to be held afterwards. Please see Janice Meyer's article for further information and thanks to Janice for making this happen.

We also have several educational offerings in the works including a virtual class Elements with Carolyn Mitchell. Please see Marietta Douglas' article for further information on our educational offerings.

We are also planning on updating our region logo.

I would like to thank the region's executive committee: Assistant Region Director Cathryn Curia, Treasurer Rosie Lunde, and Secretary Christene Thurston. I would also like to thank our Membership Chair, Ellen Saines. This past year was an especially trying year with the new online renewal process. 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

Summer: deadline is June 15

Winter: deadline is December 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**

Region Director - Maria Hall: mariathall@msn.com

Assistant Region Director - Cathryn Curia: ccuria48@aol.com

Secretary - Christene Thurston: christene.thurston@me.com

Treasurer - Rosie Lunde: rlunde@att.net

Bylaws - AVAILABLE

Education - Marietta Douglas: mlette_97@yahoo.com

Groups.io Coordinator - Ginny Thompson: gthompson@temarikai.com

Historian - AVAILABLE

Membership -Ellen Saines: ellen.saines@gmail.com

Metropoll Editor - Mary Willmott: marywillmott2@hotmail.com

Nominating Committee Member - Andrea Barbieri: abarb53@protonmail.com

Nominating Committee Member - Linda Mosch: linda_mosch@msn.com

Outreach - AVAILABLE

Parliamentarian - Cathy Goode: ceg@cgood.net

Region Events Chair - Janice Meyers: GrayceeDM@aol.com

Special Interest Groups - Nancy Knowles: nycdeganancy@gmail.com

Website Coordinator - Ginger Iorizzo: gingeriorizzo@hotmail.com

Youth Coordinator - AVAILABLE

REGION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

NATIONAL NEWS

The annual meeting was held August 15, 2024 at the National Seminar in Atlanta Georgia.

Results of Voting on Nominees for National Office and National Bylaws Updates: 1,120 members participated. Both the update to the National Bylaws and the election of officers and directors were successfully approved: Lea Peacock, President; Sherri Hagar, Treasurer; Ina Gibson, Director of Membership and Marketing; and, Deborah Berger, Director of Education.

Strategic Planning Progress: The Board formally kicked off this important initiative at the Planning meetings during the August 2022 Board session. The various working groups meet 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 following is a summary of the presentation from the August 12, 2024 Planning Committee Meeting.

Electronic Dues Payments:

- Over 5,000 members complied with the new system by renewing and paying their dues online. This represented 89% of the dues renewals through May. As with any first-year process, there were a few small glitches along the way, but the vast majority had no problems.
- About 11% of renewals were received via mail and paid by check. Payment by check in incorrect amounts, such as not including region and/or chapter dues, created the longest processing times and introduced the greatest chance for errors. Instead of the fully automated system these created an additional layer of work as they had to be entered manually in three different places, resulting in more chance for error and time spent by staff. This was further complicated by chapters sending in checks for multiple members and not always including chapter and region dues or the renewal sheet for each member. This then meant phone calls/emails to verify what was paid and a deviation from the normal payment method out to chapters/regions.
- EGA will continue to accept renewals three ways: 1. Preferred – renew and pay online. 2. Mail in the renewal form and personal check or money order – these will have a longer

processing time of 3-4 weeks during a heavy renewal period. 3. Call HQ and renew over the phone with a credit card - least preferred method.

Structure & Events:

- Completed the chapter checklists on Chapter Formation and Chapter Dissolution.
- Completed the chapter checklist on Chapter Satellites and updated the Ps & Ps
- Expand the Director of By Laws role to include the legal liaison role, ethics, compliance, Bylaws Policies and Procedures, and Robert Rules of Order.
- Expand the President's role to include fundraising.
- Evaluate all committees to make sure they are equally effective and streamline to avoid burnout by committee members.
- Work on developing a virtual community.

Events Team:

- Look at an event for the 75th anniversary of EGA.

Membership and Marketing:

- The following initiatives were noted as being completed:
- Examine the competitive embroidery landscape.
- Survey membership to assess priority membership benefits.
- Develop and propose membership categories with associated benefits.
- Recommend and implement EGA website changes.
- Develop and propose chapter logo template.
- Revise chapter website requirements.
- Develop and propose chapter website template.
- Audit existing region and chapter website and Facebook pages.

Education:

Determine the future of the permanent collection and library. Brad Cape, in his new role as Executive Director, will be very involved in this. Identify collaborators to host educational events to increase reach and EGA profile (e.g., needlework shops, hobby stores, etc.). The areas that education will address are the three Certification Programs: Teaching, Judging, and Needlework Appraisal. These programs used to be very Seminar-centric. For some of our members, this puts these Certifications completely out of reach. You can now meet some of the requirements of some of the Certification Programs by completing the appropriate Individual Correspondence Courses. There are still some requirements that require in-person meetings. The Certification Programs need an in-depth review.

Membership: Membership as of May 31, 2024 is 9,217.

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 announcement via groups.io. They are usually on the fourth Thursday of the month at 7:00 pm via Zoom. We will pause during the summer.

Website: The region website has been overhauled and will be debuting in 2025.

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. Marietta Douglas has volunteered to chair the first interest group, Counted Needlepoint, which will kick-off on January 26, 2025. If anyone has any ideas or would like to chair an individual group, please contact Nancy or me.

Board Meeting: The next Region Board meeting will be held virtually on Saturday, April 19th at 10:00 am.

Maria Hall, Region Director

EDUCATION

Saturday, March 1 at 1 pm. Save the date! Metro region will be hosting a free zoom lecture given by Elin Petronella, an up-and-coming embroiderer. Maybe she's already made it with her unique style of architectural embroidery. She uses thread and watercolors to achieve her lifelike masterpieces. She is Swedish but resides in Belgium with her husband who also stitches! If you're interested in more info, go to charlesandelin.com
Don't miss this lecture!

Marietta Douglas, Education Chair

REGION EVENTS

Stitching at the MET Gala *Don't let this fun stitching weekend pass you by! Registration will close on February 26.*

Registration will soon be closing to attend the Stitching Room at **Stitching at the MET Gala 2025**. We will be at the Montvale Courtyard Marriott Hotel, 100 Chestnut Ridge Road, Montvale, NJ, 07645, on Saturday and Sunday, April 26 and 27, 2025. Attendees can come to the 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 (see below under Hotel Information for this link).

Registration Information:

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.

The registration form is attached.

Important news: The Metropolitan Region is now accepting payment via Zelle. Information about the payment options is on the registration form.

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 Wegman’s and Whole Foods. Further information will be provided at a later date.

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Virtual Seminar Classes:

We are now offering two of our Seminar classes virtually instead of in-person.

Dawn Donnelly’s Mrs. Sparkles will be taught virtually beginning Wednesday, May 14, 2025 for 4 weeks. The cost of this class is \$255 which includes the teaching fee, kit fee and shipping of the kit. Registrations must be submitted by February 26, 2025.

Katherine Diuguid’s Warwick Cosmos will be taught virtually beginning Monday, August 11, 2025 for 4 weeks. The cost of this class is \$217 which includes the teaching fee, kit fee and shipping of the kit. Registration must be submitted by May 28, 2025.

The class information sheet and registration forms are attached.

Registration for the Stitching Room and both classes is on a first come, first served basis. Since these classes are now going to be held virtually at different times of the year, members can register for both classes plus attend the Stitching Room.

Any questions for the Stitching Room and/or the virtual Seminar classes can be directed to me (Janice Meyers) at GrayceeDM@aol.com.

We hope that you can join us!

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Have you heard about **America's Tapestry**?

To commemorate and celebrate America's 250th anniversary in 2026 Stefan Romero developed a needlework project, America's Tapestry, that incorporates thirteen hand embroidered panels that represent the original 13 colonies.

Celebrating America's 250th Anniversary

On July 4th 2026, our nation will commemorate the 250th anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. All over the United States, communities will be holding events to illustrate and mark our unique history, and to look forward to our next 250 years.

Organizing one such event is 27-year-old artist and researcher Stefan Romero. Stefan is a graduate of Carnegie Mellon University's College of Fine Arts, where he specialized in the dress and textiles of Colonial America. As a Fulbright Scholar, Stefan deepened his understanding of the discipline through his Master's Degree at the University of Glasgow in Scotland.

In collaboration with William & Mary (VA), Seton Hill University (PA), and a number of carefully selected historical and craft organizations, Stefan is creating a unique exhibition: "America's Tapestry". The exhibition features 13 hand embroidered panels, one for each of the original colonies. The embroidery will be conducted by talented artisans from New Hampshire to Georgia. The panels illustrate the diverse stories of individual contributions - many overlooked - that reveal each colony's struggle for Independence. Historical associations from across the states have volunteered to collaborate on the panels' historical imagery and have generously agreed to host the stitchers as they work.

"The idea came to me while on a work assignment in Europe after visiting 'The Great Tapestry of Scotland'", says Stefan. "I was deeply moved by the richness and drama of Scotland's story as it unfolded from panel to panel. As the product of many talented individuals working across the country to create a harmonious whole, it seemed to characterize one of the defining features of the American experiment".

Stefan will be working with chapters of the Embroidery Guild of America across the Eastern Seaboard to embroider the panels. After the inaugural display at William & Mary's historic campus, a stone's throw away from Colonial Williamsburg, "America's Tapestry" will tour a number of other historic venues throughout the East Coast.

While many talented volunteers have already come forward to stitch the panels, a project of this magnitude requires considerable manpower. Interested EGA members are encouraged to volunteer to work on this historic project. Each panel will be stitched from July 2025 to June 2026 at a historic institution within the original 13 states. All materials will be provided.

"It is a privilege for me to represent our Nation with a needlework project that will be a legacy product of this historic occasion. As we look forward to our next 250 years, it is more important than ever to preserve a definitive art form that has contributed so much to our country's distinct artistic identity."

To read more about the "America's Tapestry" project, please visit the website or contact their email below:

www.americastapestry.com

americastapestry@gmail.com

Stefan will be bringing the panels (Connecticut, New Jersey, New York and Pennsylvania) to the Stitching at the MET Gala's Stitching Room on Saturday, April 26. Our attendees will be encouraged to stitch on the panels.

Announcing a new Metropolitan Region offering in 2025!

Metropolitan Region EGA announces a [Counted Canvas Specialty Group](#) led by Marietta Douglas. We are very fortunate to have Marietta leading us (read her bio below). Meeting monthly, this will be a totally virtual offering.

[Last Sunday of the month at 3pm](#)

[1st meeting will be January 26, 2025](#)

Contact Nancy Knowles at nancy.7991@yahoo.com for more information.

Marietta's Bio:

Marietta Douglas has been fascinated with needlework since she was a young child. She likes doing any crafts involving thread or yarn. Her love of needlework really took off about 30 years ago when EGA and the American Needlepoint Guild (ANG) first became a presence on the Internet. Since then she signed up for and completed over 85 correspondence courses from EGA, ANG and Embroiderers' Association of Canada (EAC). Marietta enjoys learning many different techniques and likes combining them in her own needlework.

Eager to become more involved with needlework on the national level, Marietta was the editor of ANG's Online E-Newsletter for 10 years. In 2017 she earned her Master Needle Artist certificate from ANG for her research on Punjabi embroidery and the creation of a vest using motifs from Phulkari embroidery.

Marietta's favorite type of embroidery is needlepoint. She completed her studies of canvas work through advanced courses from EAC over six years with mentor Carolyn Mitchell, a well-known Canadian designer. This involved not only learning different stitches but research and design as well.

Marietta has juried into EGA's Fiber Forum three times. Fiber Forum is a select group that designs original embroideries with needle and thread in contemporary and traditional designs for exhibition. Teaching and designing needlework has led Marietta to teaching an online cyber-workshop and online classes through EAC and locally in EGA and ANG chapters. She is a

lifetime member of EGA, ANG and the National Academy of Needlearts (NAN). Most recently Marietta was appointed the chair for Education for Regional Metropolitan EGA.

Marietta hopes you will join this Special Interest Group on needlepoint to share, learn and enjoy this wonderful art.

CHAPTER NEWS

This has been an exciting year for **MOHAWK VALLEY CHAPTER**.

We had two retreats at St. Margaret's House and many wonderful projects completed by our members. We are also excited to announce that ten new members joined us this year.

Our past programs include a crazy quilting stocking, shadow work demonstrations, a lavender pouch, and next year's decorative bead pins. We showcased our member's embroidery at the New Hartford Library display cases in July and offered stitch-ins during the month for anyone interested in learning more about EGA. December was our Annual Holiday Potluck Luncheon, and many members brought yummy items for our tummies. We raised \$100 cash to donate to Feed A Vet Organization, and members also brought food donations for St. Margaret's House. In June 2025, new members will volunteer to join our officer's panel. Leaving in June as president, I know the chapter will be in capable hands. Happy New Year! Elizabeth Naculich

MONMOUTH CHAPTER has had a very productive year.

We completed another Stitch of The Month project as a Zoom meeting. In addition, we had a class with Dawn Donnelly and stitched "Mr. Sparkles". We also stitched Copper Moon with Toni Gerdes. Both classes were taught virtually. Our chapter also had Autumn Fireworks by Ann-Marie Anderson-Mayes of Beautiful Stitches. We also stitched biscornu, beaded Icicle Ornaments and paper ornaments among other projects.

We are looking forward to 2025 and our 50th Anniversary Celebration Luncheon as an EGA Chapter in June.

We welcome all Metropolitan members to participate in our workshop offerings.

Artistry in Stitches: A Needle Art Exhibit of Members' Work

Members of the **NEW YORK CAPITAL DISTRICT CHAPTER** are hosting an exhibit displaying a large assortment of our members' creations. A variety of needlework techniques will be shown. Technique demonstrations will occur periodically each day and docents will be available to answer questions. Our Needlework Closet offers new and gently used needlework supplies for sale. Baskets of donated needlework products and completed works will be raffled off. Visit our exhibit May 16-18, Friday-Sunday, 10a-4p at Pat's Barn, RTP Campus, 110 Defreest Dr, Troy, NY (www.patsbarn.com). Suggested entry donation is \$5.

To view our current newsletter, meeting schedule, class offerings and more, visit the chapter website at www.nycapega.org.

The **POCONO MOUNTAIN CHAPTER** has been busy as we continue with our weekly day stitch ins and monthly night stitch ins.

Our chapter filled a display case in our library for the month of August to share some of our monthly program projects.



Our Stitch In Public days have occurred at a Senior Expo Day, at a Community College Event, at a local train station autumn tour, and at our local library's bimonthly "Sit and Stitch" sessions. These events are spread out through our community as we increase our exposure and interact with possible new members.

Members met for several workshops - "Fiesta Blue" by Carol Lake, "Rainforest Crunch" by Kathy Rees and our own "Pocono Mountain Band Sampler" which was designed and published by our own chapter many years ago.

Our two day biennial exhibit was at a living historical farm where 90 items were entered and appropriate themed clothing was worn.

We attended a church service during Advent to describe our connection with the church and to invite everyone to join our night stitch-ins as a community outreach.

To end our year we enjoyed a Holiday dinner with a stitched ornament exchange.

SKYLLKILL CHAPTER

On November 6th the 50th Celebration Committee planned and executed a special program for our 50th Birthday. The committee had been working hard since 2023 to create a day of fun and recognition.



Charter member Nadine King, was not able to come, but was recognized as our oldest chapter member to date and served as the first secretary.

Member Carolyn McCarthy was with us also. She joined Skyllkill a few months after it began. We also received special notes of recognition from the President of EGA, Lea Peacock, and the Region Director of the Metropolitan Region, Maria Hall.

Member Sue Sherburne loves to bake and supplied us with four delicious cakes, one being gluten free. The fruit cup and haystacks were provided by members Elaine Watkins, Cathy Good and Arlene Seligman.

The fun came in the form of games thanks to members Ginny Thompson and Kim Beamish. We all enjoyed “Pub Trivia – Stitcher’s Version”, Presidential word find and a special Word Sudoku. We ended the game time with “Never Have I Ever”.

There were prizes, a special commemorative Needle Book & Scissor Fob Kit, designed for us by member Kim Beamish to mark our 50th and a chance for one member on each table to win an ornamental pepper plant.

Another thank you goes to members Linda Hogan and Ann Neufeld for working on updating our history and Cathy Good, who added current photos and made the booklet available to all members.

Lastly, thanks to the members of the committee for all their hard work for making this celebration happen: Kim Beamish, Cathy Good, Linda Hogan, Ginny Thompson and Elaine Watkins.

A good time was had by all!

Arlene Seligman, 50th Committee Chairman

Skyllkill Chapter received a request to expand its Meals on Wheels Outreach this year. We have annually made and donated about 75 ornaments for the Hyde Park, NY, MOW program for many years. Now, however, we have also been requested to supply enough for Poughkeepsie MOW as well - which meant needing a total of 150.

Our September Fun Night has been dedicated to an ornament project that can be used for MOW, and this year was no exception. Between that, the pattern being sent to all in the Chapter, plus some members freelancing, we made it! 150 ornaments were turned over to Outreach at the December meeting, to be delivered to the 2 Meals on Wheels programs.



Skylkill - Meals on Wheels Holiday Ornaments

CHAPTER INFORMATION

BERGEN COUNTY

Contact: Jennifer Harper at jenniferszharper@gmail.com

Facebook: BergenChapterEGA

FAIRFIELD COUNTY

Contact: Stephanie Golub at stephaniegolub@yahoo.com

FLEMINGTON STITCHERS' CIRCLE

Contact: angdorothy@gmail.com

GARDEN STATE

Contact: Gloria Lennon at gagfl14@gmail.com

LONG ISLAND

Contact: longislandega@gmail.com

Website: <http://liega.weebly.com>

MANHATTAN

Contact: Pat Conway at jerpat67@verizon.net

Facebook: Manhattan EGA

MOHAWK VALLEY

Contact: mohawkvalleyega@gmail.com

Website: <https://mohawkvalleyega.org> Facebook: MohawkValleyEGA

MONMOUTH

Contact: ellen.saines@gmail.com

Website: <http://www.mcega.org>

Facebook: Monmouth Chapter Embroiderers' Guild of America

NEW YORK CAPITAL DISTRICT

Contact: Nancy Newkirk at nnewkirkega@gmail.com

Website: <https://nycapega.org>

Facebook: NY Capital District Embroiderers' Guild

NUTMEG STITCHERS

Contact: nutmegstitchers@gmail.com

or Beverley Egan at began10445@aol.com

POCONO MOUNTAIN

Contact: poconomountainegachapter@gmail.com

Facebook: Pocono Mountain Chapter of EGA

PRINCETON

Contact: Carol Prevost at carolwprevost@gmail.com

SKYLANDS STITCHERS

Contact: skylandsega@gmail.com

Website: <https://skylandsega.wordpress.com>

SKYLLKILL

Contact: egaskyllkill@gmail.com

Facebook: SkyllkillEGA

SUFFOLK COUNTY

Contact: Pat Conway at jerpat67@verizon.net

WESTCHESTER COUNTY

Contact: Vicki Lewis at vickimewsic@icloud.com