



METROPOLL

Metropolitan Region of the Embroiderers' Guild of America

From the Region Director

Winter 2026

Happy New Year!

I hope everyone had a great holiday and that 2026 will be a great year for everyone!

Speaking of the New Year, we have lots planned for 2026. Registration is open for our 2026 region retreat Stitching in Montvale which will include an in-person stitching room for the weekend of April 25-26. The president of EGA, Lea Peacock, will be joining us. 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. 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, current Secretary Lisa Dunn and past Secretary Christene Thurston.

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

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Treasurer - Rosie Lunde: (973) 534-2150 rlunde@att.net

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Parliamentarian - Cathy Goode: (845) 485-5283 ceg@cgood.net

Region Events Chair - Janice Meyers: (732) 407-7646 GrayceeDM@aol.com

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Website Coordinator - Ginger Iorizzo: (518) 410-8898 gingeriorizzo@hotmail.com

Youth Coordinator - AVAILABLE

REGION DIRECTOR'S REPORT

NATIONAL NEWS

The Annual Meeting was held on November 13th in Dallas. The following is a summary of the highlights.

Strategic Planning

The EGA board has committed to developing a strategic plan over the next six months to help guide the organization for the next three to five years. Focus areas will include:

- membership growth
- diversification of revenue streams beyond membership dues
- streamlining our business model and volunteer and staff workloads

The strategic planning firm of Schultz & Williams, has been contracted to provide an “outside looking in” perspective and will provide an independent analysis to help develop the strongest possible plan for positioning EGA’s future.

Treasurer’s Report

Summary of current fiscal matters:

- Successful financial audit and positive financial position as of December 31, 2024
- Balanced budget presented for 2025
- Projected positive financial position for 2025

The Finance Committee has recommended, and the Board has approved, an increase in membership dues beginning in 2027. This approach ensures more frequent and thoughtful adjustments in response to rising expenses, rather than requiring larger infrequent increases. The amount of the increase will be determined and announced in 2026. **There is no dues increase for 2026.**

Bylaws

The purpose of bylaws and policies and procedures is to define for an organization “how to do what they do” and should reflect current organizational practices.

The national bylaws are being updated to incorporate current practices. One significant change is the addition of a “Leadership Policy” to reinforce EGA’s commitment to strong leadership at every level of the organization. This policy limits concurrent service at the national level to ensure officers and directors can focus fully on their responsibilities. The policy states: “Leaders elected to national positions shall not simultaneously hold any other elected or appointed position in EGA.” (Policy 1.2.3.3.1)

The board is also recommending the creation of a president-elect position on the Executive Committee to support smoother leadership transitions. The president-elect would serve for one year, followed by three years as president, eliminating the traditional election of a president.

A full explanation of proposed bylaws changes can be found in the December *Needle Arts* and is posted on the website. Online voting for the revised bylaws will open on **January 2, 2026**, and close on **January 30, 2026**.

Seminar/Events

The status of national seminars from 2024 through 2028:

- o 2024 - approximately 381 in-person attendees; profit of \$89,000
- o 2025 - approximately 337 in-person attendees; profit TBD
- o 2026 - Sun Region hosting in Orlando, FL; registration opens January 20, 2026
-First come, first served.
- o 2027 - Pacific Southwestern Region hosting; location, Tucson, AZ
- o 2028 - EGA National will host; location TBD

The National Educational Events Task Group findings - Findings will be shared in the March issue of *Needle Arts*.

Membership and Marketing

A new membership opportunity emerged with the establishment of the Virginia Tech Chapter and EGA is exploring the formation of additional college-based chapters.

The “Growing Your Chapter” webinar series has been rebranded as “Growing Your Connections” to better reflect its broader outreach goals.

EGA, in partnership with a professional marketing service, continues to expand its presence on Facebook, Instagram, Pinterest, YouTube, and through podcasts.

The staff is working with website partners to implement a plural membership processing option and improve the membership lists that are available for region and chapter use. They are also developing a lapsed member report and will review the information fields that are currently being used to generate the reports.

REGION NEWS

Although the national legacy logo has been retired, regions and chapters are not required to update their logos unless they are redesigning or creating a new one. All new logos must incorporate EGA’s updated logo. The region board has decided to update the region logo. A committee has been formed and anyone interested in joining the committee, please contact Maria.

EDUCATION

We have our first zoom lecturer of the year with Stephan Romero who will be talking about his massive undertaking, America's Tapestry. Each of the original 13 colonies has one banner to stitch for the Semiquincentennial of our country's birth. Each colony has its own stories about what life was like in 1776. This important zoom lecture will be on January 10, 2026 at 1 pm eastern time. Please mark your calendars.

We are negotiating with two other lecturers for later in the year. Sarah Benning is a young contemporary needle artist who has her own business. Krista West will be talking about her Folk Art Embroidery business which is gaining popularity, especially in the cross stitch world.

Information about these lectures will be arriving in your inboxes as the calendar moves along. Please take note of them and join me in welcoming these stitchers!

Marietta Douglas, Education Chair

STITCHING IN MONTVALE 2026

There is nothing better than stitching with friends, whether they are long-time friends or friends you just met! Bring your stitching and a friend (all guests are welcome) and stitch with fellow stitchers from the Metropolitan Region EGA. Our EGA President, Lea Peacock, will also be joining us for the weekend.

Stitching in Montvale 2026 will again be held at the Montvale Courtyard Marriott Hotel, 100 Chestnut Ridge Road, Montvale, NJ, 07645, on Saturday and Sunday, April 25 and 26, 2026. Attendees will have the option of 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.

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 is now open and will close on March 25, 2026. The per-person registration fee is \$50 for both days or \$30 for one day. Please note that this fee is non-refundable. Payment can be made by either a check or electronically. Registration and payment information can be found on the registration form.

Hotel Information:

The Montvale Courtyard Marriott 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.

We will again be in the Hamilton/Burr Meeting Room located on the second floor of the hotel, at the top of the stairs from the hotel's lobby. Elevators in the hotel will also be available.

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.

Sleeping Room Information:

We have made arrangements with the hotel for a contracted sleeping room rate of \$199 per night (Friday, April 24 and/or Saturday, April 25) for either a single or double sleeping room, plus taxes. Attendees must make their own reservations. The link will be provided at a later date.

Please note that there is a drop-down list to select the nights. Sleeping room reservations must be made by March 25, 2026. 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.

“Shopping” Information:

As every stitcher knows, we love to shop. We will again have a table for those who want to bring gently used charts and/or stitching-related items that are no longer wanted but another stitcher might find useful. This is a free exchange.

The link to this information can be found on our Region's website at
<https://metroega.org/events/>.

We hope that you can stitch with us! Questions or concerns can be addressed to me at
GrayceeDM@aol.com or 732-407-7646.

Janice Meyers, Metropolitan Region Events Chair

CHAPTER NEWS

Mohawk Valley Chapter has had a productive and stitchery filled year! The chapter began 2025 with a member challenge. Who can stitch the most pieces between Jan 1 and Dec 4, 2025? The piece had to have all stitching completed, however, it didn't have to be framed or finished. Meticulous records were kept, noting the piece and type of embroidery for each participant. The results were staggering. So many people had their pieces tracked by Imelda Pope. The results were revealed at our December Pot Luck Holiday Luncheon. Cheers went out to Jane Tanner, who completed 27 stitchery projects! Wow!

The chapter decided to place a greater emphasis this year on Show and Tell by giving more time to discuss frustrations, successes and materials used in our projects. This allowed us to promote education in stitchery as well as encouragement. Several lively discussions developed each month.

We held two sit-n-stitch retreats at St Margaret's Ecumenical & Retreat Center this year. At the fall retreat we added two workshops. They were positively received and we plan to continue offering workshops during future retreats. Through the fall, we held workshops designed to introduce our newest members to a variety of techniques, on three monthly meeting days. In September, the membership was challenged to create an embroidery using 2 buttons. Each participant was given approximately 10 different buttons from which to choose. They could trade with each other, or use some from their own stash. I was delighted to see 8 completed pieces! Each was unique and the buttons were incorporated creatively. It was wonderful to see all the original designs!

The Program and Anniversary committees are finalizing workshops and activities for 2026. This will be a banner year for us as we celebrate our chapter's 50th Anniversary. We are looking forward to another great year of embroidering and sharing our collective knowledge.

New York Capital District Chapter continues to be busy. We have 3 stitching projects scheduled for the New Year. Our Outreach activities have included a delightful exhibit of Needlework at a local library. For something new, we included a brief explanation of the technique and a few facts about the piece. We also showed pieces in progress, such as painted canvas versus counted canvas. This was well received and promoted EGA's mission to teach. We stitched at the TenBroeck Mansion in December during their open house.

The New York State panel for America's Tapestry has been an exciting project. We have partnered with the General Peter Gansevoort Chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution to stitch the tapestry at the Van Schaick Mansion in Cohoes. They hosted the Knox Noble Train of Artillery in December and 300 visitors at the mansion had an opportunity to see the New York Panel in progress. What a great PR opportunity. Come visit as at the Mansion most Thursdays from 10am to 2pm and the third Monday from 10 to 2pm. Once we are finished in the early spring, it will not be in New York for several years.

Stefan Romero and his team were in Cohoes in October to see progress on the tapestry. He gave a brief talk about his role as national project director as well as the process for creating the tapestry. Hearing him talk, one is optimistic about the future of the needle arts. He will be presenting a Zoom lecture on Saturday January 10th at 1pm. See the Dec 17 email from Region for the Zoom link. I encourage you to sit with your favorite winter beverage and stitching and watch the lecture. It is sure to be informative and interesting.

Skyllkill Chapter has always been committed to Outreach/Community Service. The Chapter coordinates year-round with several local public service organizations to provide both needed items as well as some spirit-lifting gifts, especially at this time of year.

We long ago began providing small holiday and generic ornaments to the Town of Hyde Park Meals on Wheels Program, and several years back also took on the Town of Poughkeepsie MOW Program. That requires supplying 134 ornaments in total by early December. Each September the Chapter members are provided with instructions for a small stitched ornament, usually using felt, that are small simple stash-busters; they may also choose to make their own. It was a wonderful feeling to pack up and deliver one gross (yes, 144!) ornaments to the combined MOW programs this year – 120 of the 2025 “Ornament of the Year”, and 24 Christmas-themed ornaments. The 2025 pattern was a small bird that could be stitched and embellished in any way the members chose to. Stitch and embellish they did. We hope that there will be some surprised and happy Meals on Wheels clients this holiday season.



Suffolk County Chapter has a Facebook page - Suffolk Stitchers Chapter Embroidery Guild of America and we invite everyone in the region to sign up. We do fun things like Tuesday test and Wednesday WIPs as well as photos of show and tell from our monthly meetings and information from National.

This is a photo from our 50th Anniversary celebratory luncheon.



The chapter meets on the third Saturday of the month at the Dix Hills Library from 10:00 to 12:00.

CHAPTER INFORMATION

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