Metropolitan Region EGA History Project

Please help me with the MET Region History Project!

- Add/verify the list for Chapters (chartered/dissolved)
- Add/verify the list for Past Region Directors (years served)
- Add/verify the list for Past Gold Thread Awards (year & chapter)
- Add/verify the list for any other past National EGA Awards & Recognitions (year & chapter)
- Add/verify the list any region sponsored events/seminars!
- Any other interesting Region history you want to add?

Don't worry about formatting or any order of the information. Add to the lists and send to Kim Gates (kimlgates@gmail.com). You can work on this document or just email any info you have! I'll take the information in any format.

I've included names I found in Region minutes but I'm sure I've missed many names that have received awards and recognitions. I don't want to leave anyone out, so please let me know who else needs to be included.

Do you have flyer/brochure/handout/booklets from any of the Region Seminars or the Region published booklets? I would like to add a hard copy to the files and a scanned copy to the web page. If you have a copy you can part with, please mail it to me. If you don't want to part with it, please send me a copy, scanned image, or mail it to me & I'll return it to you after I scan it. Please let me know!

My goal is to have a "Region History" page on the MET website by December 1, 2026! It will be "under construction" and I'll add to it as I get more information. Thanks! -*Kim (kimlgates@gmail.com)*

Stitchers in the Metropolitan Region have a long history and dedication to needle arts and EGA. The embroidery guild began in New York City in 1958 as the American Branch of the Embroidery Guild of London (*from 5 Decades of EGA*). This history has continued to evolve as needle arts has also evolved. It's important to remember the efforts and achievements of our Metropolitan Region members since 1976 and inspire others for the next 50 years!

Metropolitan Region Formed December 1, 1976

The EGA National Board recognized that interaction between Chapters on a local level could provide more opportunities for members and Chapters. The concept of "regionalization" was approved in 1974. The initial plan provided that 6 original regions would be formed and these could be subdivided later. The Northeast Region (New York & Connecticut) was formed in 1974. (*From 5 Decades of EGA)*

The 1976 meeting to form the Metropolitan Region listed these as the most important reasons for creating a region:

1. Better communication among the participating chapters.
2. An exchange of information and speakers to build up a tour within a region.

3. Regionalization allows for concentration of energies.
4. Allow special interest groups to meet (program chairman, newsletter chairman, etc.).

There were 6 original chapters with 1500 members when the Metropolitan Region was formed in 1976!

Chapters in the Metropolitan Region

If you are interested in forming an EGA Chapter, please contact the Metropolitan Region Director (email link). A new Chapter requires 10 members in good standing with the National EGA.

Chapters (Chartered-Dissolved)

- **Bergen County Chapter**– Allendale, NJ (1977)
- *Brooklyn Chapter – Brooklyn, NY (1970-WHAT YEAR CLOSED? 2019?)*
- *Delaware Highlands – ? where, PA (2005 (in 2005 MET Seminar handbook)- WHAT YEAR CLOSED? 2007?)*
- *Fairfield Chapter – Fairfield, CT (1972-2024)*
- **Flemington Stitchers Circle Chapter**– Flemington, NJ (1995)
- *Garden State Chapter – Summit, NJ (1968-2025; original Metropolitan Region Chapter 1976)*
- *Jersey Shore – NJ (1975 - ; Became a satellite of Monmouth Chapter 1991 "Shore Satellite")*
- **Long Island Chapter**– East Meadow, NY (1971; original Metropolitan Region Chapter 1976)
- **Manhattan Chapter**– New York, NY (1968; original Metropolitan Region Chapter 1976)
- *Mid-Hudson Chapter – Goshen, NY (1975 – WHAT YEAR CLOSED? After 2018-)*
- **Mohawk Valley Chapter**– New Hartford, NY (1976; joined Metropolitan Region 2023 from Mid-Eastern Region)
- **Monmouth Chapter**– Colts Neck, NJ (1975; original Metropolitan Region Chapter 1976)
- *Morris Chapter – Chatham, NJ (1977 – WHAT YEAR CLOSED? After 2018-)*
- **New York Capital District Chapter**– Rensselaer, NY (1967)
- *Nimble Thimbles – Somers, NY (1998 - WHAT YEAR CLOSED? -BEFORE 2018)*
- **Nutmeg Stitchers Chapter**– Norwalk, CT (2019)
- *Peconic Bay Chapter – Southold, NY (1985 -2013)*
- **Pocono Mountain Chapter**– Stroudsburg, PA (1980)

- **Princeton Chapter**– Princeton, NJ (1976; joined Metropolitan Region 2014 from Mid-Atlantic Region)
- *Richmond Chapter - ? (1989-1990) DID THIS CHAPTER EVER MEET/EXIST? Ref. found in 1990 MET EC minutes.*
- *Rockland Chapter – West Nyack, NY (1971 – WHAT YEAR CLOSED? 2007/2008?; original Metropolitan Region Chapter 1976)*
- **Skylands Stitchers Chapter**– Succasunna, NJ (1999)
- **Skyllkill Chapter**– Hyde Park, NY (1974)
- *South Mountain Stitchers – Milburn, NJ (1990-2010)*
- *Staten Island Chapter – Staten Island, NY (1978-2020; joined Metropolitan Region 1979)*
- **Suffolk County Chapter**– Dix Hills, NY (1975; joined Metropolitan Region 1980)
- **Westchester County Chapter** – Scarsdale, NY (1975; original Metropolitan Region Chapter 1976)
  GAPS: Many gaps on charter/close years! Please check all!

Region Directors

The Region Director communicates information from the National EGA to all Chapters within the Metropolitan Region. Communication is through the Metropolitan Region newsletter (*Metropoll)*, emails, and social media. The Region Director also communicates with other Regions to help strengthen EGA, Chapters and Regions. They represent the Metropolitan Region as a Director on the EGA National Board of Directors. The Region Director is responsible for Region activities, such as Seminars and Exhibits. The Region Director will assist with the formation and closing of Chapters and ensure that current Chapter officer lists are maintained and distributed at least annually.

Past Region Directors

- Jane Tate, Long Island Chapter, 1st Acting Regional Representative (1976-1977)
- Sue Clough, Westchester Chapter (1977-1982)
- Jane Gabriels, New York Capital District Chapter (1982-1984)
- Thespina Pungerchar, Garden State Chapter (1984-1988)
- Penny Berman, Pocono Mountain Chapter (1988-1992)
- Bonnie Miller, Pocono Mountain Chapter (1992-1995)
- Jane Gordon, Fairfield Chapter (1995-1998)
- Helena Dittmar, Manhattan Chapter (1998-2003)
- Gloria Lennon, Garden State Chapter (2003-2008)
- Mary Coyle, Mid-Hudson Chapter (2008-2011)
- Maria Hall, Skylands Chapter (2011 – 2014)
- Susan Roe, Skyllkill Chapter (2014 - 2017)

- Marge Kelly, Skylands Chapter (2017 - 2020)
- Maria Hall, Skylands Chapter (2020 – 2026)
- Christene Thurston, New York Capital District Chapter (2026 - present)

(note: RD list posted to MET website on 10/2/2026 Our Region History – Metropolitan Region of the Embroiderers' Guild of America)

Past National Leadership Roles

National Vice President

- Jane Gordon, Fairfield Chapter (1990)
- Alice Englund, Fairfield Chapter (1991-1993)
- Mary Coyle, Mid-Hudson Chapter (2012-2014)
- Marge Kelly, Skylands Chapter (2020-2023)

National EGA Secretary:

- Jane Gordon, Fairfield Chapter (?1989-, 1999-2001)
- Helena Dittmar, Manhattan Chapter (2004)
- Maria Hall, Skylands Chapter (2018-2020)
- Christene Thurston, New York Capital District Chapter (2023-2026)

Committee Chairs:

- Dale Sokolow, Suffolk County Chapter, National Master Craftsman Canvas Program (2001)
- Dale Sokolow, Suffolk County Chapter, Administrator of Educational Advancement (2004)
- Mimi Selik, Bergen Chapter, Master Craftsman Canvas Program (2004)
- Cathy Good, Skyllkill Chapter, GCC Development (2004)
- Janice Meyers, Monmouth Chapter, National Youth Coordinator (2012)
- Maria Hall, Skylands Chapter, Group Correspondence Courses (GCC) (2025-Present)

GAPS: Other MET members as National Officers & Committee Chairs?

Past Gold Thread Award

EGA's Gold Thread Award is an annual award to recognize outstanding individuals who have given freely of their time and talents and best exemplify EGA's purpose to inspire passion for needle arts through education and the celebration of its heritage. An individual may be acknowledged from each region, with a national recipient selected from among the region recipients and announced at the National Seminar. The *Educator's Award of Excellence,* first awarded in 1992, was replaced with the *Gold Thread Award* in 2004.

Past Region Gold Thread Awards (previously Educator's Award of Excellence)

- Sue Dawson, WHICH? Chapter (1993)
- Gladys Amos, New York Capital District Chapter (1998)
- Regina Huemmer, Peconic Bay Chapter (1999)
- Valerie Erichs, Fairfield Chapter (2000)
- Anne Friedland, Skyllkill Chapter (2001)
- Dale Sokolow, Suffolk County Chapter (2002)
- Denise Tortoreti, Bergen Chapter (2003)
- Joan Masterson, Garden State Chapter (2006)
- Janice Meyers, Monmouth Chapter (2007)
- Mary Coyle, Mid-Hudson Chapter (2012)
- Gloria Lennon, Garden State Chapter (2013)
- Sue Chadwick, Garden State Chapter (2014)
- Pricsilla DeSaro, Suffolk County Chapter (2015)
- Maria Hall, Skylands Chapter (2016)
- Lynn Schamberger, Skyllkill Chapter (2018)
- Ellen Saines, Monmouth Chapter (2019)
- Ginny Thompson, Skyllkill Chapter (2020)
- Marge Kelly, Skylands Chapter (2021)
- Christene Thurston, New York Capital District Chapter (2022)
- Cathryn Curia, Monmouth Chapter (2023)
- Pat Conway, Suffolk County Chapter (2024)
- Deborah L. Smith, Skyllkill Chapter (2025)
- Marietta Douglas, Nutmeg Stitchers Chapter (2026)
- ? Jane Gordon, Fairfield Chapter
- ?Helena Dittmar, Manhattan Chapter
- ?Nancy Schlegle, NY Cap Chapter
- *No 1995 MET applications (from minutes)*
- **GAPS: 1994, 1996, 1997, 2004, 2005, 2008, 2009, 2010, 2011, 2017???**

National Gold Thread Awards

2006 Joan Masterson, Metropolitan Region

Past National and Regional Awards & Recognitions

Through the Needle's Eye (TNE) Exhibit

- Pat Moore, Skyllkill Chapter (2002)
- Kim Beamish, Skyllkill Chapter, Region Award (2023)

Scholarships

- Christene Thurston, New York Capital District Chapter (2023) Mary-Dick Digges Scholarship

? Joan Masterson Scholarship? WHAT WAS PURPOSE/CRITERIA?

2012, 2013 Who was awarded?

Janet Hendricks Award for Teaching Children
Given to an individual, group or chapter within the Metropolitan Region to be used in the pursuit of teaching embroidery to children. The awarded funds could be used directly for children's programs or to take courses in teaching children. The award was created to honor Janet Hendricks (d. 9/11/2001 in WTC) and her dedication to children. Award ran from 2002 to ?.

- *WHO?*

Master Craftsman Programs

- Lesley-Anne Read, Fairfield Chapter (1994) Counted Thread
- Violet G. Pitcher, Fairfield Chapter (1994), Crewel
- Nina Strong, Manhattan Chapter (1994), Crewel
- Nanette Costa, Manhattan Chapter (2001), Canvas
- Mimi Sellick, Bergen Chapter (2003), Canvas

Certification Programs (Teacher, Judge, Appraiser)

- Kate Festo, Nutmeg Stitchers Chapter (2017), Certified Teacher, Silk & Metal Threads

GAPS: Other MET members? Other Awards?

Past Region Seminars, Exhibits & Retreats

EGA National Seminar was hosted by the Metropolitan Region:

- 1978. *It's a Wonderful Town*. New York, NY. Adela Busch, Manhattan Chapter, Seminar Chair.
- 1987. *Autumn Splendor.* Parsippany, NJ. Penny Berman, Morris Chapter, Seminar Chair. First seminar sponsored by any Region.
- 2003. *Stitchers in the Rye.* Rye, NY. Jane Gordon, Fairfield Chapter, Seminar Chair.
- 2022. *Broadway Bound* New York, NY. Janice Meyers, Monmouth Chapter, Seminar Chair.

Get 1980 logo (Joyce Hill, Mid Hudson Design), 2022 logo

Add photos of banners used at Region Events

- *Manhattan Banner designed by Ilona Simon-Tar. Donated to EGA HQ. Featured on cover of Needle Arts (2001 post 9/11)*





Past Region Seminars

- 1981: Tarrytown, NY. Penny Berman, Morris Chapter, Chair. First Regional Seminar.
- 1983: Caldwell, NJ. Thespina Pungerchar, Garden State Chapter, Chair. Garden State Chapter, Host.
- 1985: Tarrytown, NY. Chair? Host?
- 1989: Staten Island, NY. Chair? Long Island Chapter, Host.
- 1991: *Mountain Stitchery*. Tannersville, PA. Chair? Pocono Mountain Chapter, Host.
- 1993: *A Capital Idea*. Colonie, NY. Chair? New York Capital District, Host.
- 1995: *A Class Act*. Ellenville, NY. Jane Carpenter-Osborne, Mid-Hudson Chapter, Chair. Host?
- 1997: *A Stitcher's Garden*. Where? Mimi Novak, Bergen Chapter, Chair. Bergen Chapter, Host.
- 1999: *Share the Magic*. Where? Bonnie Miller, Pocono Mountain Chapter, Chair. Pocono Mountain Chapter, Host.
- 2001: *Kaleidoscope of Stitches*. Ellenville, NY. Helena Dittmar, Manhattan Chapter, Chair. Host?
- 2005: *Stitching in the Park*. Florham Park, NJ. Janice Meyers, Monmouth Chapter, Chair. Metropolitan Region, Host. Logo designed & stitched by Diane Kearns, Morris Chapter.
- 2007: *A Stitcher's Palette*. Florham Park, NJ. Helena Dittmar, Manhattan Chapter, Chair. Metropolitan Region, Host. Logo designed by Judy Killmer, Skyllkill Chapter.
- 2009: *A Stitch in Time*. Florham Park, NJ. Gloria Lennon, Garden State Chapter, Chair. Metropolitan Region, Host. Logo designed by Don Coyle, Mid-Hudson Chapter.
- 2011: *Bloomin' Stitches*. Florham Park, NJ. Gloria Lennon, Garden State Chapter, Chair. Metropolitan Region, Host. Logo designed by Dorna Isaacs, South Mountain Stitchers Chapter.
- 2013: *Spring into Stitching*. Florham Park, NJ. Mary Coyle, Mid-Hudson Chapter & Molly Johnson, Morris Chapter, Co-Chairs. Metropolitan Region, Host. Logo designed and stitched by Lorraine Kramer, Suffolk County Chapter.
- 2015: *Threads of Color*. Florham Park, NJ. Janice Meyers, Monmouth Chapter, Chair. Metropolitan Region, Host. Logo designed by Dorna Isaacs, Monmouth Chapter.
- 2017: *Stitching Inspirations*. Florham Park, NJ. Maria Hall, Skylands Chapter, Chair. Metropolitan Region, Host.
- 2019: *Savvy Stitching*. Florham Park, NJ. Ellen Saines, Monmouth Chapter, Chair. Metropolitan Region, Host.

GAP: Do you have a copy of the handbook for any of these events? Please share! Either scan & email Kim or send the handbook to Kim!

Past Region Exhibits

- 1979: Hammond Museum, North Salem (Westchester), NY. Harriett DeGraff, NY Capital District Chapter, Chair.
- 1982: National Seminar hosted by Metropolitan Region. Sue Clough, Chair.
- 1984?: Albany, NY Did this occur? Chair? Host?
- 1994: Manhattan? Did this occur? Chair? Host?
- 1996: Margaret Parshall Gallery. Penny Berman, Chair?
- 1998: Schering Plough, Madison, NJ. Penny Berman, Pocono Chapter, Chair. (1998 annual report: "first region exhibit in 10 years"?)
- 2001? Did this occur? Chair? Host?
- 2004: Margeret Parshall Gallery, EGA Headquarters, KY. Helena Dittmar, Manhattan Chapter, Chair.
- 2008: Mount Gulian Historic Site, Beacon, NY. Jacqui Clarkson/Mary Coyle, Mid-Hudson Chapter, Chair.
- 2016: *Stitched Art Exhibit*. College of St. Elizabeth, Convent Station, NJ. Maria Hall, Skylands Chapter, Chair.

GAP: Do you have a copy of the handbook for any of these events? Please share! Either scan & email Kim or send the handbook to Kim!

Past Region Retreats

- 2023: *The MET Getaway*. First Region retreat. Montvale, NJ. Janice Meyers, Monmouth Chapter, Chair.
- 2025: *Stitching at the MET Gala*. Montvale, NJ. Janice Meyers, Monmouth Chapter, Chair.
- 2026: *Stitching in Montvale*. Montvale, NJ. Janice Meyers, Monmouth Chapter, Chair.

GAPS: CHECK ALL Info! Some years have no more details in files.

Region Projects

- Region Band Sampler (1993) Region fund raiser project made available at National Seminar 1993.
- EGA Stockings for White House (1995). The White House Library is the site of the tree which honors Holiday 1995. Needlepoint stockings stitched by members of the American Needlepoint Guild and the Embroiderers Guild of America complete the tree. https://clintonwhitehouse3.archives.gov/WH/Holidays/Tour.html
- Miniature House. *Camberley Inn*. Region stitched bedroom furniture (rug, wing back chair, fire screen, luggage rack, bed cover, etc.) (1999?)
- Storr House (miniature for HQ). Region stitched hallways and stairs.
- Firefighter's Comforter (2001/02): Stitched by Suffolk, Manhattan & others. Presented to FDNY Academy, Randall's Island.
- *America the Beautiful Tapestry*. East Coast panel coordinated by Dale Sokolow, Suffolk County Chapter (2008). https://egausa.org/national-tapestry-america-the-beautiful/
- San Francisco School of Needlework and Design set out to create the world's longest band sampler. Metropolitan Region members (26) participated in the project. Various members saw the band sampler in progress when they visited San Francisco (2020). https://egausa.org/longest-band-sampler-snad/ https://www.sfneedleworkanddesign.org/the-worlds-longest-band-sampler-project/
- Metropolitan Region worked with NY Historical Society to recreate sampler (2022) EGA's Metropolitan Region Reproduces a Historic Sampler from the New-York Historical Society | Embroiderers' Guild of America
- America's Tapestry (2026) https://egausa.org/photos-celebrating-the-250th-with-the-grand-opening-of-americas-tapestry/

Region Books

- Program Projects (1982)
- Holiday Booklet (early 1980s)
- Teacher Notebook (early 1980s)
- Shopping Directory for Stitchers (1987)
- Stitchers' Notebook/Journal (1996)

Region Education Materials?

- Various slides from events
- National EGA History: First 50 years 5DecadesofEGA-NeedleArts2007-2008-web.pdf

Region Historian

This Region History webpage was created to share significant events, awards and recognitions of our Metropolitan members. This history includes Chapter formation and ending dates, past Region Directors, and information on significant Region events and awards. If you have any information, pictures, or stories about the Metropolitan Region, please contact Kim Gates, Suffolk Chapter (kimlgates@gmail.com).

https://metroega.org/our-region-history/

- Metropolitan Chapters (year chartered/dissolved; joined Metropolitan Region)
- Past Region Directors
- Past National Leadership Roles (Metropolitan Members)
- Past Region Gold Thread Awards
- Past National Gold Thread Awards (Metropolitan Members)
- Past National & Region Awards & Recognitions (Metropolitan Members)
- Past Region Seminars, Exhibits & Retreats
- Past Region Exhibits
- Region Fun Facts

Past Historians

- Alice Englund, Fairfield Chapter (-1995-)
- Chris Angiel, Garden State Chapter (-1998-2002-)