



Needlenews



Marin Golden Threads
Marin County, CA

Greater Pacific Region
Chapter of the Embroiderers' Guild of America, Inc

Volume 24, Issue 1
January / February 2012

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President's Message

Happy New Year to all! As we begin the New Year together I first want to take a minute to thank Karen for all of her hard work, support, knowledge, and good cheer as our MGT President for the last four years. Karen fostered an air of friendly camaraderie that keeps us all striving to do our best! I know that I have some pretty big shoes to fill – and can only hope that I am up to the job! Thank you Karen – a job well done!

Volunteerism:

According to Dictionary.com one of the definitions of volunteerism is “the policy of practice of volunteering one’s time or talents for charitable, educational, or other worthwhile activities, especially in one’s community.”

I like this particular definition because I feel that it describes our Chapter – or the members of our Chapter – perfectly. We all volunteer together to share and increase our knowledge, give back to our community through our outreach programs, and to bring thoughts and ideas on how things can be improved upon. There is never a shortage of individuals who are willing to step up and help when asked, and even sometimes before they are asked! I prime example of this is Laurel Knapp, who while stepping down from her current board position of Programs has stepped up and volunteered to take over the newsletter! My thanks to Laurel for taking up this awesome responsibility!

Our MGT Board is a collection of individuals who volunteer! Over the next couple of years I look forward to working with all the individuals who have volunteered their time (and talents)! So I want to start the year by thanking all of the board members and volunteer positions in advance for what I am sure will be a wonderful team:

1st VP/Workshop – Karen Nadeau and Kathie Woolard
2nd VP/Programs – Andria Knapp (assisted by Julianne Mibach)
Secretary: Lori Love
Treasurer: Cheri Hoggan
Regional Rep: Sandi Deckinger
Newsletter Editor: Laurel Knapp
Web: Gauri Tandavan
Membership: Sandi Backer
Hospitality: Katie Woolard
Sunshine: Julie Oyle
Historian: Janet Reese

As for me - I have but one goal for my time as MGT Chapter President – to keep MGT going strong! I hear rumors about other chapters that have low meeting participation, financial difficulties, and members who just don’t agree on anything and don’t get along. We don’t have these problems now – and I will do everything I can to keep it that way! So – if you have a suggestion or want to discuss something – send me an email so we can get in touch at velmawilliford@yahoo.com.

I look forward to seeing you all at our first meeting in 2012 - on January 28th at 10:00 A.M.

Velma

Calendar

- Jan 28** **9:00 a.m.** -- Board Meeting
10:00 a.m. -- General Meeting
 Spinning Wool with Julie Gardin
- Feb 25** **9:00 a.m.** -- Board Meeting
10:00 a.m. -- General Meeting
 Kumihimo (Japanese Braiding)
- March 24** **9:00 a.m.** -- Board Meeting
10:00 a.m. -- General Meeting
 Quaker Samplers
- April 28** **9:00 a.m.** -- Board Meeting
10:00 a.m. -- General Meeting
 Earth Day Celebration
- May 26** **9:00 a.m.** -- Board Meeting
10:00 a.m. -- General Meeting
Stitches Gone Wild!
- June** (No regularly scheduled meeting)
- June 30 –**
July 4 Marin County Fair
- July 28** Annual MGT Picnic



Happy January Birthday to:

6th – Mary Hoell

24th – Ana Sophia Arena

Happy February Birthday to:

7th – Andrina Ruzick

15th – Kristin Long

18th – Fran Thorsson

21st – Anna Patterson

25th – Ruth Cardin

28th – Rose von Buchau

Have a great birthday everyone!

Julie Oyle, Sunshine Office

Membership News



Marilyn June Birks

12/1/1930 - 12/29/2011

Marilyn passed peacefully on December 29th at her home in Fairfax, California. Born in Cheyenne, Wyoming, she was the fourth of seven children. After getting married, she and her new husband moved to Marin County where they resided for fifty-six years. She is survived by her husband Robert Birks, her four

children, Anna, Michael, Douglas and Todd, and seven grandchildren. Her many interests included bowling, needlework, bobbin lace, quilting, and square dancing. Her memorial will be held January 7th 2012 at Valley Baptist Church in Terra Linda, California, 2 o'clock PM, followed by a reception.

!!Important Website Update!!

The MGT website can now be accessed at a new address:

<http://marin.ega-gpr.org/index.html>

Outgoing President Message

I'm going to miss being your president; and as I said at the holiday luncheon I have great enthusiasm for what Velma and her Board will do for our chapter. I do have a small request of you. During my terms, I sent out information that should have solicited a reply or two. Very often, I heard nothing back. Perhaps there was no interest, perhaps it was something that couldn't be committed to; perhaps it was a busy time and a response slipped one's mind. I can certainly understand all of those things; but from the sender's perspective, it's a little disconcerting to have no response at all. I urge you to acknowledge Velma's sharing with you. It's positive reinforcement for the chapter's interests and preferences. MGT is only as great as we choose to make it!

GCC Options

EGA offers us many educational opportunities - to learn something new or improve a skill. Group Correspondence Courses are a great way to learn from a nationally recognized teacher with a high quality text to learn from. Even better, GCCs encourage get together to work on the pieces. Stitch-ins are sooo much fun! A list of the GCCs currently offered is attached to this newsletter. Please take a few minutes to look at the Education Catalog that came in the June 2011 *Needle Arts* or check them out in the Education tab on the EGA web site

http://egausa.org/html/correspondence_courses.html) for the details of the course. The \$175 group fee is split among the participants. There are a couple of opportunities to avoid that fee - the region sponsors at least one GCC each year; EGA sponsors 2 online-course offerings and *Needle Arts* covers 2 courses per quarter. Please let Karen or Kathie know of your interest in these. We'll organize a course that receives the most interest. You can fill out the form and give it to one of us at the January meeting or email your preferences (please add your name to the form).

Audit Committee

We still need a volunteer for the Audit Committee. If you feel like you should give back a little to the chapter, this is probably the easiest opportunity there is. It's a one-time, one hour experience. You don't need much more talent than being able to balance a checkbook. Please let Karen (karen.nadeau@comcast.net) know if you're willing to do help; and thanks for those who have already agreed to help.

GPR Newsletter

The GPR December Newsletter is now posted on the GPR website <http://ega-gpr.org/>. You need to log in to locate the newsletter. This is the best way to keep up with what's going on in the region and in other chapters. If you want to be notified when new editions are posted or if you have problems logging on, let Karen (karen.nadeau@comcast.net) know.

Programs

In October and November we had Kei Blesch and Laura Perin come teach classes. We had a wonderful turnout for both. I believe the number of participants in the Laura Perin class was an all-time record. I want to express my sincere appreciation to both of them for very special designs and extra special instruction.

Kei has sent me some extra beads for anyone who needs them. I'll bring them to the next meeting.

Holiday Luncheon

What a lovely luncheon we had at La Toscana this year. It was great to see old and new faces celebrating the season. If you missed it, please join us next year as it is a nice social event

2012

January 28 – Spinning Wool

Julie Gardin will be teaching us to spin wool. Julie has won a number of blue ribbons at the Marin County Fair for her wool. This should be a really fun program for all. Cost will be about \$10. Make sure you sign up for this class so Julie knows how many spindles to bring along.



February 25 -- Kumihimo (Japanese Braiding)

Kumihimo, or the Japanese art of braiding, has been documented back to 500 B.C. It's amazing how such an easy technique turns out such elegant results! And the rhythm of the braiding has a tranquil meditative quality to it that is hard to resist. Our very own **Liesbeth Matthieu** is an expert in kumihimo and has taught numerous classes. Whether you are interested in making bead-braided fashion jewelry or a custom braided edge to finish your latest needlework pillow, join us as Liesbeth shows us the ropes—or cords, as the case may be. Our project will be a necklace, and the cost about \$12-15. *Beware:* One taste of kumihimo and you may become addicted!

From this....



To this....



To this!



March 24: Quaker Samplers (Joint Program with Coast Guard Auxiliary)



The Society of Friends, or Quakers, were early advocates of female education, and established schools for girls in both England and America in the 18th century. The unique medallion motifs used in the cross-stitch samplers worked by their students have an undeniable charm that still speaks to us in the 21st century. The ladies of the Coast Guard Auxiliary, our community outreach group, will be joining us as we learn more about Quaker samplers and start our own projects. Auxiliary members are interested in learning how to cross-stitch—**Janet Reese** will lead the teaching session, assisted by members who have volunteered to act as tutor-mentors for individual Auxiliary members. We will offer a small beginner project (suitable for a pincushion or magnet) as well as a larger project for members who want more of a challenge. Estimated project cost: Will vary depending on project chosen.

**April 28: Earth Day Celebration:
Swedish Weaving and Upcycle
Mart (Guest Teacher Mary
Polytika Bush)**

Who needs paper towels anyway? We will Be Kind To Mother Earth by learning Swedish weaving to make a hand towel. Also known as huck weaving, Swedish weaving is a form of surface darning that dates back to the 1600s. Its heyday here in the United States was in the 1940s and 1950s, but as with so many thing retro, what's old is new again. If you haven't seen the gorgeous geometric and bargello-like effects that can be achieved with this easy technique, you are in for a real treat. We will be joined by one of our favorite guest teachers, Mary Polytika Bush, who will show us her "One Band Bonanza" design.

But wait! We're not done yet! "Upcycling" is reusing old materials to make something better than before. Bring your unwanted needlework items—equipments, supplies, patterns, kits, whatever—to our first Upcycle Mart. Someone else's lonely treasures will be waiting to go home with you. (All sales donation proceeds benefit MGT.) Spring cleaning and saving the planet all at the same time—what more could you ask?!



May 26: Stitches Gone Wild!

Hold on to your thimbles, ladies! Nationally known for her crazy quilts and beading, **Sara Zander**, MGTer Extraordinaire, will be giving us a preview of her newest class offering, "Stitches Gone Wild!" In the Program Survey results, you said you wanted to learn more new stitches—here they are! Using a wide variety of embroidery stitches, Sara has designed a charming piece of crazy quilting that can be turned into a small necklace/pouch or a needlecase when completed. Join us for what is sure to be an awesome learning experience with an enthusiastic and experienced teacher. (Note: Because of the in-depth course content, this will be an extended program session.)



June -- Marin County Fair (No regularly scheduled meeting)

July -- Annual MGT Picnic (No regularly scheduled meeting)

We look forward to sharing what's still to come in 2012 soon, once details are nailed down.

—Andria Knapp

June 30 – July 4 Marin County Fair

The theme for the Marin County Fair is changed from what we were told last year. It is **Always Fresh, Fun & Local**. “Plans for the Exhibit Hall include bringing the agriculture legacy theme alive with memorabilia displays, information kiosks, food tastings, visual presentations of antique farm wagons and implements, and the opportunity to meet Marin County farmers and ranchers. The exhibit will illustrate how the root of sustainability, organic farming and ranching, and responsible land use is largely found in the agricultural practices of an earlier era.”

In the Clothing & Textile area, Special Prizes will be awarded to any clothing or textile entry featuring agricultural themes.

Check out the Marin County Fair website for opportunities and ideas for entries.
http://marinfair.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=225&Itemid=337

Educational Opportunities

February 1 is the last day of premier registration for the Regional Seminar in Tacoma, Wa which will be held June 22 - 27, 2012. The information necessary can be found at <http://www.gprseminar2012.org/>.

February 15 is the last day to sign up for the region GCC (group correspondence class) which is Liesel - Schwalm (German whitework). The description and form can be found at <http://www.ega-gpr.org/html/gprSponsoredGCC.html.php>.

Contact Karen Nadeau if you have any questions that these sites don't answer.

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A perfect gift for your stitching friends



Greater Pacific Region-sponsored GCC

Liesel-Schwalm Teacher: Barbara Kershaw



This course has been designed to introduce you to the beautiful German whitework technique of Schwalm Embroidery. Schwalm embroidery combines surface stitches with pulled thread and drawn thread techniques. This course will teach you the basic surface stitches which are the coral knot, chain stitch and satin stitch. To cut threads and form a grid on which you will work some beautiful pulled thread stitches such as the rose stitch, cording stitch and mosquito stitch and a traditional mousetooth edge. Starting with a blank strip of 32ct Strathaven linen and DMC Coton à Broder watch as it is transformed into a lovely decorative band. This unique pillow band will slip onto a pillow for display but also slip off again for easy laundering or a change of background colour when you redecorate your room. If you prefer to make your own pillow instead of buying one instructions are included in the text. Left-handed instructions are available. Please state if a left-handed copy is needed when you register.

Project: Pillow Band

Size: 12 inch (30cm) X 27 inch (69cm)

Fabric: 32ct Strathaven Linen

Threads: DMC® Coton à Broder (Broder Spécial) #16, 20 & 25

Colors: White

Skill Level: Beginner Schwalm Embroidery for the Intermediate Stitcher

Prerequisites: None

Time: 6 meetings, 6 months

Fee: \$175 per group (Paid by GPR)

Text: \$50.00 per student; includes 6 skeins of Coton à Broder with 40 page text

Supplies (approximate): \$15 (does not include pillow)

To see larger picture, go to: http://www.egausa.org/html/correspondence_courses.html



To register, mail this form and a check (individual checks okay) made out to GPR-EGA to:

Sara Zander

GPR Education Chairman

223 Edith Street

Petaluma, CA 94952

Email: education@ega-gpr.org

DUE: February 15, 2012

Please note: Items will be sent to individual members. Finished projects for critique will be sent by member to teacher unless chapter decides to send as a group. GPR will not send projects to teacher. Dates for completion, teacher contact, etc. are in the text.

Name: _____ **EGA Member # (required):** _____

Address: _____

City, State, Zip: _____

Phone: _____ **Chapter Name:** _____

Email: _____ Left handed Instr. YES _____

COST

Text and Coton a broder	\$	50.00
Shipping		<u>7.50</u>
Total Enclosed	\$	<u>57.50</u>

Marin Golden Threads
6003 Shelter Bay Ave.
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NEEDLENEWS, the newsletter of Marin Golden Threads, a chapter of the Greater Pacific Region of the Embroiderers' Guild of America, Inc., a non-profit organization, is published six times each year (January, March, May, July, September, November) for the benefit of its members. If you do not receive your copy of *NEEDLENEWS*, by the 25th of each of those months, please notify the newsletter editor.

The Chapter Goals are:

To educate and promote the highest standards of technique and design in needlework;

To encourage interest, enjoyment, and creativity in doing all forms of fancywork or handwork;

To promote cooperation and interchange of ideas among those who are engaged in or interested in needlework in all parts of the world.

Membership is open to everyone who is interested in and/or who enjoys any of the textile arts. Dues are \$53.00 per year for regular members and \$11.00 per year for plural members (in Region). Members are not only invited to attend chapter meetings, but are entitled to attend Guild-sponsored workshops at a minimum fee. Guests are invited to attend one meeting. Further attendance requires either regular or plural membership. Our library is available to members for their use. Guild members receive *Needle Arts*, a quarterly national publication of the Embroiderers' Guild of America, Inc., as well as the bi-monthly newsletter, *NEEDLENEWS*.

Meetings: **Regular monthly meetings are held at Valley Baptist Church, San Rafael, on the fourth Saturday of each month at 10:00 a.m. unless noted in the Calendar.**

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Laurel Knapp, Editor