



New York Capital District Chapter

Summer 2021

DATES TO REMEMBER

June 8

Joint Meeting Via Zoom -
"Why You Need a Little
Yellow in Your Life"
By Jacquie Clarkson

July 1

Deadline for Summer Stitching Day registration

July 30

World Embroidery Day

August 21 (raindate August 28)

Summer Stitching Day at Ararat

CONTACT INFO

NATIONAL Embroiderers' Guild of America

www.egausa.org

1205 E Washington St,
Suite 104
Louisville, KY 40206
(502) 589-6956
Fax (502) 584-7900

REGION
Metropolitan Region

www.metroega.org

Maria Hall, Director
mariathall@msn.com

CHAPTER

NY Capital District Chapter

www.nycapedia.org

www.facebook.com/nycdcega
Ginger Iorizzo, President
Gingerlorizzo@hotmail.com
(518) 410-8898

Newsletter

Sandie DeLorenzo
sandiedelo@outlook.com

A Summer Day of Stitching Together In Person!! by Helen O'Connor, Retreat Coordinator

by Helen O'Connor, Retreat Coordinator



We are excited to tell you that we've decided to have a **one day stitching retreat Saturday, August 21st,** (rain date 8/28) at Ararat in Greenville, the venue we have been using for a long time. We normally would have a three or four day retreat, of course, but these are not normal times. Instead of using the dining room, we are going to use the outdoor Pavilion, which seats many people, and has plenty of room for you to sit, either at a table alone or, if one chooses, with friends. I'm providing electrical outlets. Masks are optional and there is no vaccination required outdoors.

You can arrive as early as 9:00 a.m. and stay as late as 7:00 p.m. The cost for the day is \$25.00. You need to bring your usual stitching supplies, lighting, magnification, and chair cushion or special chair if you want one. There are two restrooms behind the Pavilion, and there's another one near the dining room as well. You can either bring your own food, or elect to eat the optional Barbeque lunch that will be offered at an additional cost of \$29.50, which includes the tip. The Barbeque menu consists of Angus burgers, 100% beef hot dogs, fresh grilled sausage, corn on the cob, potato, macaroni and pasta salads, and desserts of cookies or sheet cake. We need to have a minimum of 15 people for the Retreat, and 25 for the Barbeque.

Please complete the [coupon](#) on Page 7 and send it, along with your check, made payable to NYCDCEGA, by July 1, 2021 to Louise Butler at the address listed on the [coupon](#).

I hope many of you will be able to come. This is a toe-dipping-into-the-water event, to get us ready to meet in person again, which I know we all want so badly to be able to do. After we have the requisite number of participants, I will send out an email to them with more information, including specific directions to the venue.

If you have questions, please don't hesitate to contact [Helen O'Connor](#) using the information found on [Page 2](#).



2021 EGA National Seminar
The Magnificent Stitch
September 1-5, 2021

Chicago Marriott Downtown, Magnificent Mile, Chicago, IL
Hosted by the Great Lakes Region
egausa.org/event/ega-national-seminar-2021/

Hurry! Registration ends **June 15, 2021**

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Letter from the President

Dear Members,

Summer is almost here! The days are getting longer and the weather is getting warmer. I hope you are all able to get outdoors and enjoy. Maybe you've even been able to stitch outdoors on your porch or deck.

We still have two open Board positions that need to be filled – Program Chair and Publicity. If you, or anyone you know, are interested in filling one of these positions, please let me know. If you would like to see what the Board is all about, please come to a Board meeting and check us out. Board meetings are always open to any members who would like to attend. Just let me know, (using the contact info on this page) and I will be sure to send you the Zoom link prior to the meeting. If you have any specific concerns that you would like to address at a Board Meeting, please let me know so I can put it on the Agenda.

While we are still in need of a Program Chair, our Program Committee has been working hard to try and come up with some interesting topics for our members. I hope that you have been enjoying the lectures we've had over the past few months. If anyone has any ideas for specific lectures and/or programs that you would like to see offered by our chapter, please reach out to me, or any Board member, and let us know. We are always looking for new and exciting things to offer. On June 8, Jackie Clarkson is scheduled to give a Zoom lecture on "[Why You Need A Little Yellow In Your Life](#)."

Don't forget about our ongoing challenges – The [Pandemic Challenge](#) and the [UFO Challenge](#). I'm excited to see what everyone is working on!

All of our groups will continue to meet via Zoom throughout the summer. We are not scheduling any new programs, lectures, etc. over the summer, but we hope to resume those in the fall.

Since Covid restrictions are being eased in NYS, we are planning a modified [Summer Retreat](#). It will be one day, rather than a weekend, and will take place at the Ararat Retreat Center on August 21, 2021 (rain date August 28). Ararat has an outdoor pavilion where we can sit and stitch to our hearts' content!

We are also looking at possibly resuming indoor meetings in September. We will continue to hold Zoom meetings over the summer (possibly longer), depending on Coronavirus-Related restrictions. Bloomingrove Church has already reached out to us about returning in the fall. We may need to find new venues for some of our other groups. If anyone knows of possible meeting spaces, please let someone on the Board know.

Thank you all for your patience in dealing with these new challenges as we move forward. Stay safe and happy stitching!

Ginger Iorizzo





Meeting in the Time of COVID

We will be using Zoom for all group meetings, classes and study group gatherings until it is safe for us to gather in person. Zoom invitation links will be emailed before events. For group and joint meetings, invitations will be sent to all Chapter Members. Class or workshop invitations will be limited to registered participants. Study group invites will be limited to current members of the group. If you are interested in joining a study group, you can contact the group coordinator listed below.

If you are unsure about how to connect with us via Zoom, please contact the person whose name is on the invitation and she will help you to get connected.

Beverwyck Evening Group

7-9 PM every 1st & 3rd Tuesday

Community Room of the Terrace at
Beverwyck Retirement Community,
41 Beverwyck Lane, Slingerlands

Coordinator: Terry Case
tcase5@hotmail.com, 518-472-9506



Day Group

10 AM -2 PM every 3rd Wednesday

Blooming Grove Reformed Church
706 Bloomingrove Dr, Defreestville

Coordinator: Fran Roscello
FranRoscello@nycap.rr.com, 518-283-4002



North End Group

7-9 PM every 2nd & 4th Thursday
(Sept-June), barring holidays

St. George's Episcopal Church
912 Rte 146, Clifton Park

Coordinator: Doris Halvorsen
davhlv@aol.com, 518-371-3956



Study Groups and Studio Time

Study groups and Studio Time are open to all members and offer unstructured time to gather with other Chapter members for stitching and socializing. Study Groups encourage exploration and knowledge sharing of a particular type of stitching. Check the Calendar page for exact meeting dates.

Blackwork Study Group

Fourth Saturday of the month; 10AM-1PM

Contact: Fran Roscello at
FranRoscello@nycap.rr.com or 518-283-4002.

Crewel & Surface Embroidery Study Group

Second Wednesday of the month; 10AM-12PM

Contact: Mary Willmott at
marywillmott2@hotmail.com or 518-462-0131.

Cross Stitch PLUS Day Study Group

Third Monday of the month; 10AM-2PM

Cross Stitch PLUS Eve Study Group

Second Monday of the month; 7-9PM

For either group, contact: Lynne Priestley at
lpriestley053@gmail.com or 732-245-7242.

Studio Time

Fourth Wednesday of the month; 10AM-2PM

Contact: Sherry McCredie at
smccredie@nycap.rr.com or 518-469-8499.

Whitework Study Group

Second Monday of the month; 10AM-12PM

Contact: Doris Halvorsen at
davhlv@aol.com or 518-371-3956.



JOINT MEETINGS

Why You Need A Little Yellow in Your Life by Jacquie Clarkson

Zoom Meeting - 6:30pm Meeting, Tuesday, June 8

Meeting link will be emailed to all members before the meeting

When you hear the word **YELLOW, what do you envision? Is it a positive feeling or a negative one?**

Please join Jacquie as she shares her passion for YELLOW and how it impacts her world.

Together we will explore the positives and negatives of this color. The surprise might be how it can successfully be incorporated in your life as well as your needlework designs.

Jacquie Clarkson is an accomplished stitcher and needlework teacher! She has her Journeyman Level II in the Master Teacher Programme of ANG. Her teaching experience includes EGA, ANG, Quilt guilds in both Canada and the USA, a Fine Arts college in Ontario, historical museums in both Canada and the USA, Cyber-workshops for ANG, an upcoming online workshop in Sashiko in 2021 for EGA, Studio Time at Callaway Gardens as well as Region seminars for EGA, numerous lectures on Threads, and lectures on the historical aspects of different needlework.

In addition, Jacquie has designed projects for national thread and fabric companies over the years. She has also created, as part of a group, articles for ANG, designed projects for national magazines and needlework books, studied with Elizabeth Elvin while she was principal of the Royal School of Needlework, volunteered for different executive spots for local EGA and ANG guilds, been an executive at the Region Level of EGA and National Level for ANG, and was a partner in a needlework shop called the Heart of the Needle for 8 years. What tends to follow through on most of her work is texture. She loves texture and how it looks on a piece.

Membership Information

Additions

Lynn Howell

Mary Louise Mallick

Christina Martinez

Nancy Perry



**Welcome
Lynn, Nancy,
Mary Louise &
Christina!**

Pandemic Challenge by Ginger Iorizzo, President

Might you consider creating a piece for this unique challenge? What a great memory of the history-making times we live in. We would love to have a display of all of the Pandemic Challenge pieces at our May 2022 exhibit.

Your piece can be any type of stitching—cross stitch, needlepoint, crewel, etc. It should be either an original design, or an adaptation of a commercial design.

There are lots of designers who have shared freebies related to the pandemic. Find one and make it your own! Reflect on what you were thinking, or feeling, or anything that reminds you, in any way, of the pandemic and represent that in your design. It should be no larger than 6" x 6" and must be finished. It can be a pillow, a framed piece, a box top, or whatever!



*Pandemic Piece courtesy of
Ginger Iorizzo*

*Largest Selection of Cross Stitching Supplies
in Dutchess County*



Open Tues - Sat 10am - 4pm

Country Plaza, 1225 Rt. 9G, Suite D
Hyde Park, NY 12538 • 845-229-0246

Pat Athanas email: deerhillfarmxs@optimum.net

SAVE THE DATE

*Artistry
in Stitches*

A Needle Art Exhibit of Members Work

MAY 19-22, 2022

*The mission of
The Embroiderers' Guild of America
is to inspire passion for the needle arts
through education and the celebration
of its heritage.*



**We welcome those of all skill levels
and interest in any needle art technique.**

Grant's Funky Slippers Get A New Life by Terry Case, Outreach



Recreated slippers

As many of you know, President Ulyesses S. Grant spent the last few weeks of his life in a cottage near Milton, NY. That Cottage is now a State Historic Site open for visits and tours in the summer.

Last fall, Amanda Massie, who works at Grant's Cottage, contacted the Outreach Committee and asked if we could create slippers similar to ones Grant was wearing in a photograph taken at the Cottage. The picture was sent out to members for consideration and the consensus was that the slippers were probably felt with needlepoint on the uppers. Two Chapter members, Dawna Johnson and Louise Butler, volunteered to create them. Dawna made the felt slippers and Louise stitched the needlepoint using a Scotch stitch and then attached the canvas to the felt. As you can see by the pictures, the results were fantastic! We owe a big thank you to both Dawna and Louise.

The slippers were submitted to the Cottage staff in late April. The only addition were leather soles attached by the conservators at Peebles Island. Everyone was pleased with the results and the slippers are to be shown in a display case during the summer with credit given to the Chapter.

We plan to have a trip to the Cottage in the summer for any interested members. Stay tuned for plans, dates, etc.



Original slippers





We are excited to have Jennifer Paperman as our new Treasurer; Louise Butler has committed to being our Vice President; Maggie Oldendorf has graciously volunteered to be our Creative Stitches Program Coordinator; Betty Kohn is taking over the Habitat for Humanity; and Fran Roscello is our newly created Parliamentarian. Thank you!

We still have **TWO** open Board positions, as described below, that we are in need of someone to fill. This is critical. Without these all-important volunteers, our Chapter cannot continue to provide the meetings and activities that many of us benefit from.

If you enjoy all that our Chapter has to offer, please consider taking a more active role in a Board position. As we all work together, each job is not a heavy lift. Board meetings are held via Zoom once a month or so on the first Monday of the month.

If anyone may be interested in any of these positions or would like more information, please let [Ginger](#) know. She will be happy to provide a detailed Job Description.

PROGRAM CHAIR

The Program Chair is responsible for reaching out to potential teachers and planning interesting classes and lectures for our members.

The tasks include scheduling, contracts, etc. We have an entire Program Committee, so this position would have plenty of help.

PUBLICITY

The Publicity Chair will promote programs of NYCDCEGA through appropriate media (such as print, social, radio, tv, and email) and will work with the Program and Exhibit Committees to ensure outreach with publicity.

UFO Challenge 2021-2022 Registration Form

Name: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

UFO Name	Year Started
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

Copy and paste this form into an e-mail, fill in the information, and send the completed form to Evelyn Greenstein at ekgekg@nycap.rr.com.

August Stitching Retreat At Ararat Center

Saturday, August 21, 2021 (raindate August 28)

Registration Deadline is July 1st

Name: _____

Phone: _____

E-Mail: _____

☐ Retreat Only: \$25

☐ Retreat and BBQ: \$54.50

**Send check (made out to NYCDCEGA) to:
Louise Butler**

125 Westchester Dr, Clifton Park, NY 12065

☐ Included is SASE for my confirmation OR

☐ Please email my confirmation

_____ You are registered for the August 2021 stitching retreat.





EGA National Education Programs

by Trudi Jacobson, Education Chair

There are a number of recently added educational opportunities.

Group Correspondence Courses

- >Reticello Needle Book
- >Bargello and Design

Individual Correspondence Course

- >Techniques for Canvas Embroidery

Online Courses

- >Sashiko Sampler (coming soon)
- >Red Clover (coming soon): Traditional embroidery with gilt threads and padding

Monthly Virtual Lectures

The online lectures held every month have changed the registration process from accepting the first 100 registrants to holding a lottery each month. This change was necessitated by the large number of interested individuals, and trying to make the process more fair. They are not recorded.

Upcoming lectures:

- >The Story of Seedbeads on July 10 (registration 6/14-21)
- >The Thobe, a Traditional Palestinian Dress on August 14 (registration 7/12-19)

Royal School of Needlework

Online Talks: The RSN is continuing their online talks series, divided into collection talks and curator talks. They are very interesting. I've attended a number of them. They are generally held on Wednesdays at 2pm EST. They are not recorded.

Coming Up:

- >Hats, Bonnets, and Veils: Embroidered Millinery on May 26
- >All That Glisters: The Historical Appeal of Metal Threads Embroidery on June 30
- >Four Weddings, Four Coronations & Two Funerals: The RSN's Royal Commissions on May 12
- >Landscapes in Stitch on June 16



UFO Challenge 2021-2022

What is a UFO? No, we are not referring to Unidentified Flying Objects! In the needlework world, UFO refers to an **UnFinished Object**. If you are anything like me, you have many of them languishing somewhere in a closet. Or perhaps you've dusted off a few since the Pandemic started last year. We would like to see everyone complete their UFOs, so we are offering a UFO Challenge to our members!

- ⇒ You may register up to 5 UFOs started before 2020.
- ⇒ UFOs must be less than 50% completed at the beginning of the Pandemic, i.e., March/April 2020.
- ⇒ Fill out the coupon on [Page 7](#) to register your UFOs and email it to Evelyn Greenstein.
- ⇒ Your UFOs need to have all stitching completed, but do not need to be finished (framed, box top, pillow, etc.)*
- ⇒ Each time you finish a UFO, let Evelyn Greenstein know that it is done, and e-mail her a picture.
- ⇒ UFOs must have stitching completed and an e-mail of completion sent to the coordinator by April 1, 2022.
- ⇒ For each finished UFO, you will be entered into a drawing for a \$25 gift certificate to a needlework shop.
- ⇒ 3 Winners will be announced at our May 2022 Joint meeting.

* Although finishing is not required to be entered in the drawing, we would love to see your pieces fully finished to be displayed at our next Exhibit.

Help Create the World's Largest Band Sampler

World Embroidery Day was set up in 2011 in Sweden by a passionate group of stitchers who felt that this wonderful art should be acknowledged and celebrated. Since then, people around the world have come up with all sorts of ways to celebrate each **July 30th**.

This year, the San Francisco School of Needlework and Design (SNAD) has an ongoing project to create the world's longest Band Sampler! They are asking anyone who is interested to stitch a band that will be incorporated into their sampler. You may use any type of ground fabric – i.e., linen, evenweave, canvas, congress cloth, etc. You may use any type of stitching technique you like. They would like you to incorporate your name, where you live, and any other info you might like to include. Your fabric must measure 7" high x 11" wide. The design must be no larger than 5" high x 9" wide, which allows for a one inch seam all around. This is an ongoing project with no set due date. You can read all about this project and see some of the samplers here: <https://sfneedleworkanddesign.org/the-worlds-longest-band-sampler-project/>

Metropolitan Region is collecting stitched bands to be sent to SNAD. If anyone stitches a band, you may e-mail Cathryn Curia (Metropolitan Region ARD) at ccuria48@aol.com and she will give you instructions to send it to her.

For more on long samplers, see the article on [Page 9!](#)





The Mysteries and Allure of the Bayeux Tapestry by Trudi Jacobson, Education Chair

First, let's clear up one basic fact. The Bayeux Tapestry, that remarkable piece of textile art that has survived since the 1100s, isn't a tapestry at all. It is an amazing work of crewel embroidery, using wool threads on linen fabric.

Here are the fundamentals about the Bayeux Tapestry:

- ◆ It records the events leading up to William of Normandy's conquest of England by defeating Harold, newly crowned King of England, during battle in 1066.
- ◆ It is enormously long: almost 231 feet of linen cloth in sections of various lengths, though initially it was longer, as there is a piece missing.
- ◆ It is narrow, at just under 20".
- ◆ It is located in Bayeux and hasn't left France since it was initially brought there, presumably in the 11th or 12th century.
- ◆ Four stitches were used: stem and couching stitch predominate, with chain stitch and two-yarn split stitch used more rarely. The couching stitch is now known as Bayeux stitch (Lemagnen, p. 16).
- ◆ The wool was probably dyed in the wool to create the seven colors used, with the dyes coming from plants: terra cotta (madder), blue and very dark blue (woad), yellow (weld), buff, blue-green, and dark green (mixtures of weld and woad) (Snook, p. 14, Lemagnen, p. 15).
- ◆ It has three horizontal sections: the middle section tells the story and has a terse commentary in Latin. The smaller top and bottom borders include animals, birds, and anecdotal scenes.
- ◆ The motifs in the borders were borrowed from images found on woven silks from the eastern Mediterranean area. Using these motifs associated with a more luxurious medium would have enhanced the value of Tapestry for its first viewers (Hicks, p.18).



Scene 5: Harold and his entourage on their way to pledge loyalty to William, Duke of Normandy

Beyond these facts, there are mysteries and cliffhangers attached to it. It is also a living document!

The primary mystery is how it came to be created. It tells the story of a Norman conquest and resides in a museum in France, and yet it is sympathetic to the English. For many years, it was thought that Queen Mathilda, William's wife, commissioned the work. That view has been discredited. Many now believe that William's younger half-brother Odo arranged for the work to be designed by monks skilled at book illumination and stitched by embroiderers in a workshop near Canterbury. However, Carola Hicks, in her book *The Bayeux Tapestry: The Life Story of a Masterpiece*, suggests that it was Edith Godwinson, the widow of the recently deceased King Edward, the sister of King Harold, and a friend of the new King William, who was behind the creation of the tapestry. She had the "motive, means, and opportunity" and is the only contender for the role of patron who had expertise in embroidery (Hicks, p. 29-30).

The further mysteries of where it was created, when, and who stitched it are all tied up with the primary question of who commissioned it. What is known is that it is documented as being in the Bayeux Cathedral in 1476. Each year during a July feast week, it was displayed around the nave, while at other times, it was kept in a chest in the Cathedral's treasury. And yet, why is it in Bayeux since there is no direct connection? Where was it between its creation and 1476? Bridgeford speculates that it might have been kept in the crypt of the Bayeux Cathedral for safekeeping, but access to the crypt was blocked from the early 12th century until 1412. Being inaccessible would have kept it safe from harm during those tumultuous centuries (Bridgeford, p. 302).

The tapestry has had some dicey moments ... (*STAY TUNED: to be continued in the Fall issue*)

References

- Bridgeford, Andrew. *1066: The Hidden History of the Bayeux Tapestry*. Harper Perennial, 2004.
Hicks, Carola. *The Bayeux Tapestry: The Life Story of a Masterpiece*. Vintage, 2007.
Lemagnen, Sylvette. *La Tapisserie de Bayeux: Une Découverte Pas à Pas*. OREP Editions, 2015.
Snook, Barbara. *English Embroidery*. Mills & Boon, 1974.
Walton, Cathryn. *Hidden Lives: Leek's Extraordinary Embroiderers*. Published by the author, 2014.
Wilson, David. *The Bayeux Tapestry: The Complete Tapestry in Color*. Thames & Hudson, 1985.



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