



Views From The Attic

Winter into Spring 2003

Attic Needlework & Collectibles

The Southwest's finest counted thread establishment

106 East McKellips Rd., Mesa, AZ 85201 (480)898-1838 1-888-94-ATTIC

IMPORTANT *Attic* DATES

Saturday, February 15 – Market Saturday!!! We open early, 9 a.m., for a special hour of shopping for our Preferred Stitchers Club members, first chance at all the goodies from Nashville at a 15% discount. Then at 10 a.m. we open our doors for all to see ...

Thursday, February 27-Sunday, March 2 – 2003 Junipine Retreat

Friday night, March 21 – Sunday, March 23 – Lauren Sauers Workshops

April 5-25 – Erica Michaels Trunk Show

Saturday night, April 26, 6:00-11:00 p.m. – *The Attic's* Spring Lock-In – SOLD OUT! Wait list only.

Saturday night, July 19, 6:00-11:00 p.m. – *The Attic's* Summer Lock-In

Saturday, July 26, 10:00-5:00 p.m. – Semi-Annual Framing Frenzy

Saturday night, October 25, 6:00-11:00 p.m. – *The Attic's* Autumn Lock-In

Saturday night, November 22, 6:00-8:00 p.m. – *The Attic's* Annual Silent Auction for Breast Cancer Research

JUNIPINE RETREAT 2003

Our Fifth Annual Junipine Retreat in beautiful Sedona will be held Thursday, February 27, through Sunday, March 2. The bus will leave the store at 11:00 a.m. on Thursday, with a stop at MetroCenter to pick up anyone from that side of the valley, another stop at Camp Verde for lunch, arriving at the beautiful Junipine Resort shortly before 3:00 p.m. After getting everyone checked into their creekhouses, we will gather together in the Knotty Pine Café for an opening reception, which includes the café's famous smoked trout, baked brie, and other delicious hors d'oeuvres; there will be a no-host bar available.

At the suggestion of many of our retreaters, we have added an extra day. Some of our regulars come very far--Dee from New York, Evelyn from Florida, Vida from Michigan, Elayne from Wisconsin, and Pat from Iowa—and it seemed we were just unpacked and settled, and it was time to go.

The project this year, **Celebrate or Happy** by *Mosey 'n Me*, will be an easy stitch, on large-count fabric, embellished with wonderful *Just Another Button Company* buttons. You choose the holiday when you register for the class; choices are Valentine's Day (I know, it will have passed by retreat time, but there's always next year), St. Patrick's Day, 4th of July, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Christmas, or a New Baby Welcome, pink or blue. Your kit will include the appropriate threads and buttons for your chosen holiday, fabric, needle, and all finishing materials. The finishing is the really cool thing about this project—all done with pins and an iron ... absolutely no machine sewing. And you will go home with a finished project! The price of the project will vary, depending on your choice of holiday, and is priced separately from the retreat fee. Retreat fee, \$300 (includes bus transportation, creekhouse, and the opening reception with no-host bar).

MARCH ~ LAUREN SAUER WORKSHOPS

We've been wanting to have her visit for several years now, so we're very excited to host a wonderful March weekend of workshops with **Lauren Sauer** of *Forget-Me-Nots In Stitches*. Considered by her peers to be a true needleartist, Lauren, along with her sister and two cousins, learned to embroider from her aunt at the age of seven, and she's been embroidering ever since. She began designing counted thread charts in 1977 for her own amusement and pleasure and since 1978 has been teaching embroidery and conducting workshops for EGA chapters, needlework guilds, and specialty shops across the USA AND in England. Her work has been featured in *Early American Life*, *Needlewords*, *Cross-Stitch Sampler*, *Just CrossStitch*, *Midwest Living*, and *Fine Lines*. Her designs are found in fine needlework shops all over America, as well as in England, France, Belgium, South Africa, Singapore, Australia, and New Zealand. She considers herself a perpetual student and enjoys and pursues the study of needlework whenever and wherever she can.

In honor of Lauren's visit to *The Attic*, we are teaching her piece d'resistance, **The Secret Garden**. On its tenth anniversary year of publication, Lauren designed a limited edition beaded scissors tassel to go with the sewing case. We brought them home from a tradeshow several months ago and have been saving them for this special occasion and for the students in this class. See our Class Schedule published with this newsletter for details.

Here are Lauren's Workshops for Friday through Sunday, March 21st through 23rd.

November Chase – Friday night, 6:00-9:00 p.m. – This small wearable pocket depicts a popular scene, the chase, often found on 18th-Century needlework. The back panel shows the outcome of the Hare's afternoon adventure with the Wolfhound ... Most of the embroidery is worked over one with other stitches added, including several bargello patterns for textural and visual interest. The project is stitched on 32-count Misty Blue Belfast linen with a beautiful palette of threads, Soie d'Alger, Sampler Threads, and DMC, and includes a variety of stitches: gobelin, satin, Rhodes, stem, smyrna, long-armed cross-stitch, eyelets, cross stitch over one and two, French knots, rice, Palestrina knots, and several bargello patterns. Complete directions for finishing the pocket are included. The student should bring the usual sewing supplies, as well as any other equipment that would make for a pleasant embroidery experience. Fee: \$90.

Mermaid Menagerie – Saturday and Sunday, 9:00-4:00 p.m. (with an hour off for lunch) This first-in-a-series of embroidered objets d'art celebrating the beauty of the sea, the Mermaid's Menagerie includes a Starfish, a Sea Horse, a Lobster, a Sea Urchin, and a Sea Bass. Made up variously into scissors fobs, pin cushions, a needlebook, and a scissors rest, they are embroidered on five different shades of 28-count linen using 13 colors of Sampler Threads, 4 colors of Silk 'N Colors, 2 colors of Accentuate, as well as Anchor or DMC. Seed beads are used for embellishment here and there. Embroidery stitches used include: eyelets, Palestrina knots, rounded Rhodes, satin, Smyrna cross, stem, trellis, backstitch, and cross stitch over one and two. Optional: Your sea creatures can be kept safe inside a beautifully made reproduction Nantucket basket. Fee: \$250 (lunch is included both days).

And next year we plan to invite Lauren back to teach her second in this series devoted to the sea, the **Mermaid's Sea Chest**, which you can ooh and aah over in complete awe of Lauren's design techniques that accomplish this stunning piece. She will also have with her the newest design in this series, the **Mermaid Sampler**. You can see photographs of these projects at the shop, on her website, www.forgetmenotinstitches.com/, and hopefully soon on our website, www.atticneedlework.com/.

Workshop participants will also be able to purchase any of Lauren's published designs at a 15% discount during this special weekend.

NOVEMBER ~ MERRY COX WEEKEND

We are pleased to announce that Merry Cox will be with us again for several wonderful workshops in November 2003. The kits are available for prestitching now (all but *Flowers From Thy Garden*). The projects selected for this special weekend are:

Friday night, November 14, 6:00-9:00 p.m. - Flowers From Thy Garden: A Working Sampler. Wouldn't it be fun to go to class, take its sampler from its carrying case, unroll it, face it in front of you and now everything needed is at your fingertips ... a ruler pocket, a needlebook with vintage linen needlepages, an Ultrasuede scissors holder tucked behind the needle pages, a pocket for a thread stick, a lovely pincushion, and many alphabets within the sampler for reference.

While on a trip to England, Merry found this sampler stitched on two pieces of linen and then bound together. The antique pieces each have red bands woven into the linen with several alphabets. Merry reproduced the alphabet from the 1860's sampler, stitched the red bands to replicate the woven ones, and then designed "her garden." Stitches include rococo, closed herringbone, cross over one and over two, tent over one, half cross and nun's stitch. The sampler is hemstitched and then lined separately. Ribbon is tacked to each corner of the lining piece and then pulled through each corner from the hemstitched sampler, through mother of pearl buttons, and then tied in a bow. This allows the lining to be removed for washing and also allows more stitching to be added later, such as your favorite monogram, alphabet, family information, etc. The sampler is folded in half, wrapped around the pincushion, and stored in its case. The kit includes 35-count linen, all silk fibers, silk ribbon, finishing materials for the sampler and carrying case. Optional items are the scrimshaw ruler, petite scissors, and thread stick. No prestitching for this piece. Fee: \$130

Saturday morning, November 15, 9:00-12:00 Noon – The Courtship: A Colonial Sewing Purse.

This very patriotic sewing purse features a colonial house with flags, a picket fence, trees, an eagle, and a horse on the front, and one of Mary's lovely original verses on the back. The inside has two pockets; one is stitched with a sampler and a "colonial couple" and the other is made out of silk. Also inside is a stitched needlebook with antique linen pages. Small scissors fit into one of the stitched pockets as well as a place for a scrimshaw ruler. When closed the purse measures 5" x 3 1/2". Stitches include cross, over-one cross and tent, closed herringbone, couched stitch, and the nun's stitch. Kit includes 32-count Dark Cappuccino R & R linen, Soie d'Alger silk, Soie Cristale silk, Gloriana silk, Thread Gatherer silk, Weeks Dye Works floss, vintage button for closure, red silk lining and all finishing materials. Fee: \$130. Options available for purchase: scrimshaw flag ruler and scissors, \$40.00

Saturday afternoon, November 15, 1:00-4:00 p.m., Off to Williamsburg or "Off to Plymouth" or "Off to Mesa" or wherever you're off to. This charming set consists of a sewing case inside a lovely Birdseye maple Shaker box. The case measures 4" x 2" when closed, and the box measures 6" x 3 1/2" x 2." The front of the sewing case features a woman dressed and ready to go stitching!!! The back has an original Merry Cox verse. Inside the sewing case is a mini sampler needlebook with antique linen pages and a silk scissors holder. The scissors have a ribbon and sterling silver "colonial show" charm attached. A vintage button is used for the closure. Stitches include cross, over-one cross and tent, closed herringbone, broad chain, Roman, and Williamsburg stitch. Kit includes 32-count linen, Soie d'Alger silk, Soie Cristale silk, Gloriana silk, and Sampler Threads, silk ribbon, Shaker box, silk for lining the case and Shaker box, and all finishing materials. Fee: \$130. Options available: scissors and sterling silver charm \$30.

Sunday, November 16, 9:00-4:00 p.m., A Sailor's Huswif. An antique huswif made by a sailor in the 1800's inspired Merry to create this beautiful design. The antique huswif has a plain satin fabric on the outside. Merry has embellished the outside of the huswif with a lovely floral vine and another of her original verses, all stitched in cross stitch, rococo stitch, and over-one cross stitch. The antique has pockets on the inside embellished with beads, mirrors, and trims. Merry has designed her huswif's inside with a ship at the top, back-stitched in black to resemble scrimshaw, and included four pockets, two of which have mirrors like the antique but with the added beauty of needlework. The kit includes 32-count linen, all fibers, all finishing materials, and a scrimshaw ruler. Fee: \$210 (lunch is included).

Merry Cox Stitch-Ins—We will have several Sunday afternoon stitch-ins for the prestitching, beginning February 23, 1:00-4:00 p.m. Other dates: April 27, June 8, July 27, and TBA (to be announced).

CLASS SCHEDULE

Included with this newsletter is our latest Class Schedule. We hope you will join us in one or more of our class offerings. In addition to the Lauren Sauer piece, **The Secret Garden**, we have a wide variety of techniques-oriented classes, including beading, Brazilian embroidery, hardanger, silk ribbon, and, of course, sampler stitches ... along with the just-published design by *The Victoria Sampler*, **The Heritage Christmas Sampler**, with classes spaced throughout the year to keep us on track and finished in time for the next Holiday Season, which will be here faster than we can imagine. Like where did January go?

SPECIAL ORDERS

In our last newsletter we discussed special orders ... we thanked you for the opportunity you give us when you ask us to fill your special “needs” in needlework, we discussed the sometime problem we have with back orders, and we also told you about the whys and wherefores of our business decision to ask for a deposit on unusual special-order items. Unfortunately, as in other things, a small few necessarily affect the rules for all. A small few have continued to place special orders and then not pick them up, or cancel the special order when we call to say it’s in. Therefore, we find it necessary again to change the rules for special orders. Please understand when we ask for a deposit with almost all orders. The only exceptions will be if it’s a chart for a store model, floss or needles or some other product that we regularly carry in our inventory. All others will require a deposit. We will print a duplicate receipt at the register reflecting your deposit amount, and attach that to the special order. If all things go as planned, the duplicate receipt will be there, but we strongly suggest that you keep your copy of your receipt for any deposits made. We don’t like to think we make mistakes, but every day we are humbled by finding out we are human.

WHAT’S NEW

While you’re downloading and reading this newsletter, we will be wearing ourselves out shopping for all of you at the Nashville Cash n’ Carry market (I know, it’s a tough job, but someone has to do it) ... and if this year is anything like last year, we will come back with our suitcases full of all the latest and greatest in our corner of the needlework industry.

But even before we go, we have some very exciting new things in the store. Here’s a bit of info on some of the goodies already here:

Fabrics

Wonderful new colors from Zweigart in 20-, 25- and 28-count Lugana: Angel Blush, Bo Peep Pink, Lavender Bliss, Miracle Mint, Opalescent, Little Boy Blue, Baby Lotion, Ray of Light, Fairy Dust, Gold/Cream, and Silver/White. We’ve had various of these come in and go out just as quickly, so if you don’t find it when you’re here, just ask. We have the fabric swatches to show you.

Also from Zweigart in their beautiful 32-count Belfast linen: Bo Peep Pink, Fairy Dust, Little Boy Blue, Lavender Bliss, and Ray of Light. These are all in stock as of this writing.

And, finally, a month or so ago we received the long-awaited Zweigart 40-count in Flax. Well, what else can we say? We love it! It makes fabulous miniature ornaments when easily mounted (if Jean can do it, you can, too) in the wonderful antique silver and gold frames that you can hang on a ribbon and decorate just about anything, including yourself.

As of this writing we are awaiting a **Lakeside Linens** order that will have their newest colors, and the “sampler fabrics” will all be done in their vintage.

Fibers

Many of you know that we’re in love with Au Ver a’ Soie’s Soie 100/3, especially for 40-count silk gauze. Well, now it’s available in exquisitely beautiful colors from *Gloriana*, in a thread called **Luminescence**. As of this writing we have a number of colors in stock and are waiting for the balance of our order.

Beading

In addition to some beautiful beaded scissors fob kits and matching needlebooks by *Fern Ridge Collections* (see the Class Schedule for the fob class taught by Tricia), we have gotten in some very lovely kits from *Ann Benson Ltd*. The kits include pins and eyeglass cases, in various techniques, cardbeading and beadpoint,

Books

There are three new “sampler” books that have become available within the past several months. They are all wonderful and should be a part of every sampler-lover’s reference library. Don’t make the mistake of thinking you’ll buy them later, next year or whenever ... we’ve all had the experience of waiting too long and then trying to find a special book in the used-book market, at a much higher price than originally.

Miller’s Samplers—How to Compare & Value by Stephen & Carol Huber. Even if you never plan to purchase an antique sampler, this is a richly informative and colorful volume by two of America’s leading sampler dealers and experts. \$27.50

Ohio Is My Dwelling Place—Schoolgirl Embroideries 1800-1850 by Sue Studebaker. In this lavishly illustrated book, embroidery samplers are coupled with the stories behind their creations and the circumstances under which they were sewn. This keepsake volume presents the fascinating stories of the samplers and the girls and young women who created them. Available in both hard (\$70) and soft (\$35).

Sampler Motifs and Symbolism by Patricia Andrlé and Lesley Rudnicki. In addition to the charts for five samplers, including a reproduction sampler, a Dutch windmill sampler, and a mourning sampler, this wonderful book includes 135 illustrated motifs and their meanings. If you’ve ever wanted to design your own sampler, or you sometimes like to personalize a sampler design with motifs of your own choosing, this is a wonderful addition to your library. \$36.00

RECORD-BREAKING SILENT AUCTION

The Attic's Fifth Annual Silent Auction for Breast Cancer Research was held Saturday evening, November 23, and it was the best so far! Thanks to the generosity of so many of you, \$6770 was raised. All proceeds were donated to the Breast Cancer Research Foundation at the Sloan-Kettering Hospital in New York. The BCSF has been selected to receive these funds based on their statement that a minimum of 85% of all funds raised goes directly to breast cancer research grants and awareness programs. Visit their website at www.bcrfcure.org/ for more information about this wonderful organization, whose mission it is to achieve prevention and a cure for breast cancer in our lifetime. It is the first and largest national organization dedicated solely to funding clinical and genetic research on breast cancer. Since its inception in 1993, it has raised over \$40 million in grants to support premier investigators at major medical facilities nationwide.

It was again a very special night ... so many beautiful things with thousands of hours displayed in your creativity. The ornaments were displayed this year on a garland that stretched across two walls of our classroom. The items not appropriate for hanging decorated wall shelves, and tables below the garlands held the bid books. I know I say this every year, but it is so true ... the exquisite needlework is more beautiful each year.

And each year there is a story that comes forth that especially touches our hearts. This year was no exception. In addition to a number of beautifully finished needlepoint ornaments from Lillian Schmitz' collection, there were five very special animal needlepoint pieces, all beautifully stitched and finished, some of them limited edition canvases and very collectible. A note accompanied these five pieces: "This needlework animal was stitched in honor of Lillian Schmitz. Lillian was a breast cancer survivor for over eight years. An avid needlepointer, she had a zest for life, her friends, gardening, and her animals. This animal was one of many needlepoints Lillian started; and upon her passing, her friends at The L.A. Stitchers finished this piece. We know Lillian would be proud to know that her needlepoints were helping fund breast cancer research for the future."

Three of these five pieces met the minimum bids set and were taken home to loving homes. However, two of them remain and will be included in next year's auction. Photos of them will be posted to our website and details of how you can participate in the bidding process for these special pieces will be included.

Our deepest gratitude to the following donors and bidders (please forgive any unintentional omission or misspelling):

Kay Ambramsohn	Carol Justice	Terry Warburton
Christy Bednarik	Barbara Kammerzell	Lynn Wells
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