



## Grand River Valley Chapter January/February 2009 Newsletter

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**MEETINGS** are held at the Gaines Township Library, on the corner of 68<sup>th</sup> Street and Madison on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday of the month. Meetings begin at 10:30 with “Stay and Stitch” following the meeting. Members are also invited to join the early birds for breakfast at 9:00 at *The Red Geranium* on Kalamazoo just south of M-6 and the Meijer entrance...

**MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION** Guests are welcome to attend two chapter meetings, after which they are expected to become national and local chapter dues-paying members. National dues are \$29.00 per year payable to the national office and billed by them. Chapter dues are \$16 per year payable to GRV-ANG, due by the January meeting and given to the treasurer. If joining mid-year, the initial payment may be pro-rated.

**GRV CHAPTER NEWSLETTER** is published 10 times a year with a two month newsletter in the summer and in the winter. It will be e-mailed to members and interested parties and mailed to members upon request to the editor.

President	Jeannine Cella	269.628.5348	<a href="mailto:jeanninecella@msn.com">jeanninecella@msn.com</a>
President-Elect	Betsy Redman	616.940.6012	<a href="mailto:betsyr2910@comcast.net">betsyr2910@comcast.net</a>
Secretary	Dawn Gribben	517.669.2515	<a href="mailto:dagribben@comcast.net">dagribben@comcast.net</a>
Treasurer	<a href="#">Nancy</a> Mulvihill	616.245.1672	<a href="mailto:ncmulvi@cs.com">ncmulvi@cs.com</a>
Member-at-large	Anne Lewis	616.949.2212	<a href="mailto:Michigannie2@aol.com">Michigannie2@aol.com</a>
Membership Chair	Linda Moroz	616.676.9525	<a href="mailto:dlmoroz@comcast.net">dlmoroz@comcast.net</a>
Program Chair	Jennifer Pohlman	269.355.6198	<a href="mailto:uglymuttaeus@yahoo.com">uglymuttaeus@yahoo.com</a>
Photographer	Geri Krajewski	616.453.0052	
Web Guru	Diane Hoban Jennifer Pohlman	517.351.4138 269.355.6198	<a href="mailto:dchoban@tds.net">dchoban@tds.net</a> <a href="mailto:uglymuttzeus@yahoo.com">uglymuttzeus@yahoo.com</a>
Newsletter Editor	Joyce Working	616.738.0037	<a href="mailto:ndlptnut@sbcglobal.net">ndlptnut@sbcglobal.net</a>
ANG Web Site			<a href="http://www.needlepoint.org">www.needlepoint.org</a>

### **A NOTE FROM YOUR PRESIDENT**

Dear Friends,

Wow-What a Winter

The last time I saw most of you was at the November luncheon at the Kent Country Club. Thank you to Betsy, Lou, and Barbara for planning the fun luncheon for all of us. From there we took off to see the very first needlepoint art show in Grand Rapids! How exciting to see how they displayed all of those beautifully stitched pieces! What fabulous stitchers we are! Anne, thank you for planning this event.

I spent most of January cleaning and organizing my stitching room. What I found were a lot of projects just begging to be finished. So, I am now rotating projects until I finish them. I'm also working on Halloween ornaments because I just can't work on anything that has snow on the canvas!

For our February meeting, please bring what you are working on, as well as what you have already finished for our show and tell. We also received a request from Ele's Place for three more door signs. We will discuss these at the meeting.

Sincerely,  
Jeannine

## **A NOTE FROM YOUR TREASURER AND YOUR BOARD**

### **ANG and Chapter Membership**

As you know, **to be a member of our GRV Chapter, you must first be a member of ANG National.** Over the years as people move, change chapters, are dual members or At-Large members, records can get muddled. We have several members who have been affected by this. You have heard about Joanne's month's long communication to change from At-Large to a member of our chapter. Anyway, National is cracking down on us and we need your help to comply.

Nancy and all of the Board members are here to support you and help get these discrepancies resolved.

### **NATIONAL MEMBERSHIP**

**First**, look on the back of your "Needle Pointers" (NOT "Needlepoint Now") magazine in the mailing label for your membership number. It is located above your name and is followed by the expiration date (for your national membership only), then the chapter number.

Example, mine is: 7225 6/1/09 MI-05

#### **ALL MEMBERS:**

**Look at your magazine mailing label and e-mail your number to Nancy at:**  
[ncmulvi@cs.com](mailto:ncmulvi@cs.com)

Remember, National bills separately for their dues (which should be around the time you originally joined ANG). As a chapter, we voted to collect dues in January of every year to simplify our bookkeeping, so the dates are different.

**Don't get the magazine?** Well then, you are not a current member of ANG. To correct this, go to [www.needlepoint.org](http://www.needlepoint.org) to join and remember your chapter number will be MI-05. You may also look in the front of an old magazine for information on how to mail in your membership request.

#### **Memberships that need attention:**

National tells us that Diane Hoban and Mary Maguire had membership's that expired in 2007. When this is corrected, National might issue you a new number so please e-mail that to Nancy.

Marty Whitehead does not show up on the national list that we were sent but this could be because you are a dual member with your local chapter. Just send Nancy an e-mail with your national number.

Karen Hunter and Anne Smary-Varner also are not on National's member list. Could be because of your name change, Anne?

As you can see, there are a variety of problems but nothing serious that can't easily be corrected.

## **CHAPTER DUES**

With the weather and meeting cancellation this may have been forgotten but the following members have not renewed their chapter dues:

Carole Brown  
Alyce Hoban  
Diane Hoban

Karen Hunter  
Mary Maguire  
Val McAleenan

Candy Titus  
Marty Whitehead

Please mail your check for \$16 payable to GRV-ANG:

Nancy Mulvihill  
2247 Anderson SE  
GR 49506:

Thanks, everyone for your patience as we get all of this information corrected. We look forward to a fun year stitching and learning from each other this year as well as several planned events. Hope you will enjoy your membership and participate whenever you are available.

Happy Stitching!!!

## **MEETING INFORMATION**

### **FEBRUARY 21ST MEETING**

Oh, please, please, let the snow gods be kind to us! It has been so long since we have had a chance to get together for a meeting and stitching.

Bring LOTS of show and tell!

Although we have a class planned for May, there were two small projects that we had discussed doing as a group; the shared stitching mini-stocking and the ort box that Gwen finished for us to see. Both of these will be discussed and scheduled so plan to attend and cast your vote on when we should do these.

Plan to meet for breakfast at *The Red Geranium* and stay and stitch after the meeting.

## **MARCH 21<sup>ST</sup> MEETING**

To be announced based on the February discussion.

## **APRIL 17<sup>TH</sup> MEETING**

To be announced based on the February discussion.

With taxes out of the way, time to celebrate with some stitching!

## **MAY 15<sup>TH</sup> AND 16<sup>TH</sup> MEETING AND CLASS**

It doesn't seem possible that it was two years ago that we tried to get Libby Sturdy here for a class and this was the soonest date that she was available. We even slipped in another class with Ann Strite-Kurz in the meantime! The Libby Sturdy class was selected as a special celebration of our chapters 15<sup>th</sup> Anniversary!

The board had a very difficult choice to make from the many, many topics that Libby offers but has chosen one of her newest pieces, and less Christmassy pieces, "The Grilling Santa" (or grandpa) for our class. It is adorable and very colorful with his plaid pants his oven mitts and the kettle grill. He will be lots of fun to complete and make a great summer gift for your favorite grill master.

If you have not had a class from Libby, you are in for a treat. She is very soft spoken and just a delightful person. Her stitch guides are excellent and easy to follow (no major counting like our last class). You will find the stitch guide very easy to follow when you are at home finishing the project.

Libby chooses threads that are not expensive and are easy to work with. Her canvases are carefully line drawn and her kits are very well planned.

Again, Betsy Redman has graciously offered to host Libby at her home both nights. Libby comes from the northern Chicago area so travel isn't so expensive. The chapter will cover the teaching fee. The cost to attend the class will be \$150 for the two days. This includes the canvas, threads, instructions and guidance from an excellent National teacher and designer.

Please bring your normal class stitching supplies and a bag lunch and drink (refrigeration and coffee are available). The board will provide desert.

The class will be at Grace Episcopal Church, corner of Plymouth and Hall from 10:00 until 4:00. Please come early the first day to set up.

Reservations must be made by April 15 to allow Libby time to prepare kits. The final payment must be to Nancy by May 1.

This will be a relaxing, stress free class and a fun project. We have waited two long years for this event to I hope to see you all there!

NOTE: I had a computer glitch so the picture of the class is being sent separately as a forward. I will send that immediately after the newsletter.

## **CHAPTER SPECIAL EVENTS**

### **HER MAJESTY'S GETAWAY, APRIL 3, 4 AND 5**

Our annual winter getaway is being held in East Lansing again, hosted by Diane and Alyce Hoban. Hopefully this later date will be more weather friendly than the blizzard that attendees faced last year. The upside was that they had to stay an extra day and stitch because the weather was too bad to leave. What was the downside, you ask? None that I can see! Diane has sent all of the details to you previously and I think most people have signed up but if not, here's a last chance. Please contact Diane if you have any questions.

### **ROAD TRIP....Y'ALL**

Some of you may have watched Oprah last year on her road trip with her best friend Gail. Not only did we learn that Gail definitely cannot sing, but it was overall a very funny trip.

I would have loved to be a mouse in the car for the trip to Memphis recently, as Dawn and Jeannine went off to "Bunger School"!

It has been so long since the first installment appeared in the November newsletter that I am repeating it here so you have the "whole picture".

### **SCHOOL DAYS** – First installment

Hold a needlepoint class and they will come.....

Hold a needlepoint class 640 miles from home – Jeannine and Dawn will go,

Armed with their needlepoint essentials and a few clothes, they prepared for a wonderful 4 day technique class at BUNGER SCHOOL!!!!

Arriving in Memphis they planned to visit Elvis on their free day. The driver and navigator got lost - found a great shopping area and enjoyed the beautiful Memphis weather saving Elvis for another time.

Need we say more?

They were now students on their way to BUNGER SCHOOL.

Determined to learn more about techniques and try to perfect them, Jeannine and Dawn arrived at Bunger School ready to win the war of great stump work, tremendous turkey work, beautiful buttonholes, magnificent beading, twirling tassels, and bullions you would die for.

As you know, Amy is a wonderful instructor and she made each task enjoyable. The sessions were definitely for techniques and application of stitches, embellishments and the like. Her class room is filled with samples that we could study - mostly stitched by Amy and her shop staff and friends. As an aside, Amy even had an "unfinished Brd Bath on the wall. A class she took at Seminar one year. Made us feel soooo good.

A fun afternoon took us back to kindergarten. Fourteen ladies dressed in paint smocks, learned how to dye threads for that perfect color and paint canvas. Yes, sometimes some people do that! Unwaxed dental floss wound on a fork remained in a cup of coffee over night so we could see the results the next day. We found out we could paint items out of a canvas and could stitch OVER some areas if you didn't like it. You don't have to "rip" every time. You know, of course, it would have to be a small area.

Another session was on fur and turkey work. When stitching animals, one should study the animal and they way the fur grows – don't just start where you want to – think of the animal, such as a dog and see how the fur lies on his head – different directions if you look carefully. Stitch it that way.

There was a session on hair and makeup – we attended hairdressing school and learned the techniques again of how hair grows and definitely how you want to show it off. – Cute, curly, wispy, crazy, and on and on. Also how sometimes not to stitch eyes, nose, mouth as it is painted. Diagram the face out on graph paper seeing how it fits with your canvas. Then stitch it. If the face needs rosy cheeks or just a little bit of blush, get out the crayolas and gently "color" them in.

I hope we have whetted your interest in our adventure. This takes you halfway through the class.

The next installment will commence with days 3 and 4 and whether we graduated with honors...

Jeannine and Dawn.

## **BUNGER SCHOOL CHAPTER TWO**

Each day, as I have said before, was a wonderful adventure. Days 3 and 4 were scheduled to be laid fillings, knots, tassels, beading, fringes and the ever dreaded turkey work to name a few.

Anxious always to get to class, we anticipated another fun and enlightening day. Today's class started with the correct way to do a buttonhole stitch. Did you know that if you have to buttonhole beginning at a straight edge, you should first do a lazy daisy stitch?

We didn't, but boy does it work. Start with a small lazy daisy stitch; come back to the bottom of that stitch and start your buttonhole. This eliminates an uneven edge to the stitch on a straight line.

We buttonholed most of the morning ---- on the straight away, curves; we added detached buttonholes, whipped these babies, festooned them; buttonholed on a ring, made a cup stitch with the buttonhole.

We learned to fly with the Fly Stitch. This can be used for zig zags, stars, eye brows. The feather stitch is as versatile. Use it as you wish – over giant brick stitches for trim (go down in the "dimple) or over a laid fill.

Another session was on stump work. Never could do it but must say we learned the intricacies of the method and are now out of "pre-school". Tassel making was fun as was twisted fringe (this is good for rug fringe, trim on a lamp shade, or tacking it down for Santa's beard); learning to braid with 4 threads for whatever your little heart desires to do with it.

Bullions were attempted and achieved. Turkey work became a snap. Beading was fun and enlightening. Did you ever think of doing the brick stitch with beads? I never did but I have to tell you it's cool.

To Jeannine and me it seemed like school just started, but alas, the 4 days were completed. On the way home we reminisced about the classes, the delightful people in our class and the professionalism of both the teacher and the shop workers. There isn't a time when we both don't remark "I refer to those notes we took..." That to us is a sign of an educational experience.

**Chapter 3 – the conclusion – will be a show and tell of our schoolwork at a Chapter meeting this Spring.**

Yes, we graduated with honors as well as boosting the economy in Memphis.  
What fun we had!!!!

Jeannine and Dawn

## **INTERESTING TID-BITS**

**FEBRUARY 14<sup>TH</sup> . Homestead Needle Arts** will celebrate it's 5<sup>th</sup> Anniversary under Theresa's talented ownership. This has been a true success story and Theresa plans to celebrate with food, gifts and discounts! If you are unable to attend personally, she is even offering specials on line so don't miss it!

### **TNNA MARKET REPORT**

Last year I had nearly 3 pages of new items from the California market to tell you about. Well, this year needlepoint is still alive and well in spite of the economy and there is even more! If I include everything I've heard about in this newsletter it will be 20 pages long! I'm going to let you have some fun investigating this year.....check out Nuts About Needlepoint and some of the shop newsletters such as Ridgewood, Chaparral, Homestead, etc. With the things I read about in the Homestead Needle Arts newsletter alone I think Theresa either has or is receiving daily half of the entire market herself! Have fun and let's share our findings at the next meeting.

### **STASH DOWN SIZING**

The GR chapter of EGA continues to collect complete kits to be donated to a Texas rehabilitation hospital for our veterans. They do need complete kits (including needles) since they do not have access to individual supplies. Maybe you have a cross stitch or other type of kit that you no longer think you will do? Dawn or Joyce can put you in touch with the EGA person who is collecting these.

Jeannine also has an address for a woman's prison that would like to receive handwork supplies. Please check with her for the address.

**ANG NATIONAL PRESIDENT, BARB RICHARDSON** will be at Homestead Needle Arts this spring to teach a small flower basket ornament. Details are still being finalized so check the Homestead web site or call for more information.

**ANNUAL SPRING STITCHERS GETAWAY**, sponsored by Homestead Needle Arts will be **March 27, 27 and 29** at the Thomas Edison in Port Huron. Theresa always brings the shop with her for these events and a great time is had by all. Wonderful location and lots of long time friends from previous events to share ideas with. Check with Theresa for details. For the many things included, it's still a reasonable cost and a drivable location.

### **WEB SITINGS**

[www.amybunger.com](http://www.amybunger.com)

Amy Bunger's newsletter is great. Every month she includes a stitch, tips and projects as well as lots of pictures of pieces both finished and in the works. Be sure to subscribe to her newsletter.

[www.raymond Crawford.com](http://www.raymond Crawford.com)

Fun and fast canvases from Raymond Crawford. Check out the holidays and fun sayings. If you have a wedding to do a piece for, look at his "I DO" bride and groom. Don't forget to look at the finishing.

### **HAPPY BIRTHDAY TO:**

**Since we didn't have a January meeting or newsletter, I would like to wish a belated happy birthday to our January birthday members:**

#### **January**

Carole Brown on the 6th  
Ginny Richards on the 24<sup>th</sup>

#### **February**

Nancy Mulvihill on the 12th  
Dot Messinger on the 16th  
Karen Hunter on the 22nd

#### **March**

We have no March birthdays

#### **Thoughts:**

**This has been a particularly hard winter for members of our group, illness, surgeries and loss of family members. Please take a moment to remember these members in your thoughts and be thankful that we have those friends in time of crisis and also that we have our stitching to help us through these times.**

**May spring bring a true renewal for all of us this year.**

Happy stitching!

Joyce Working