

# Inspired Needle News

## Special Store Hours for December:

- The shop will be **closed** for the Christmas Holiday, December 24 & 25 (Thursday & Friday), New Year's Holiday, December 30, 31 and January 1. Please make a note of these dates to avoid any disappointments!
- Starting January 1, 2010, there will be a change in business hours. On Thursday we will no longer be open until 8pm. The new hours on Thursday will be 10a to 4p.

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## Happy December & Merry Christmas!

Well, we made it through all of October and all of November without any snow. Yea! I don't dislike winter, but it is my least favorite month. I love the green and freshness of Spring, I enjoy the freedom of no coats and the warm sunshine of Summer and I beam with the cool, crisp days and gorgeous changing colors of Autumn. Snow? It is pretty when it is falling and I am tucked safely inside my warm home. I love Christmas and all the anticipation and preparations. I love to bake cookies, shop for presents and decorate the house. But once the Christmas festivities are over, I am done with

Winter! Then I just count down the days until Springtime. Of course, it seems to come later and later every year and I just keep hoping and praying that it will get warm again. And so it goes, year after year.

My wish for you, my dear friends, is to have a healthy and happy holiday, filled with loved ones and laughter. Challenge yourselves to be extra patient and go out on a limb and try something new this year.

Maybe go caroling at a nursing home. Help out at a food panty. Fill up a gift basket with some special goodies and give it to a needy family. Many of us are blessed and we have plenty of food and warm clothing to wear while our neighbor might be out of work. Watch for someone in need and bless them with some of your abundance. It will warm your heart and make you feel so good inside! It might even make waiting for spring a bit more bearable. Merry Christmas!

For unto us a child is born, unto us a son is given: and the government shall be upon his shoulder: and his name shall be called Wonderful, Counsellor, The mighty God, The everlasting Father, The Prince of Peace. Isaiah 9:6

## Shop Lemont For the Holidays

The Village of Lemont is back in full swing promoting local Christmas shopping. Fun events are planned for Saturdays, December 5, 12 and 19 from 2p to 6p. Kris Kringle Markets includes picture taking with Mr & Mrs Claus, an outdoor, German market, Carolers, story-telling



and more. All proceeds benefit the Lemont Food Pantry.

Midnight Madness on Friday December 18 from 6p to 12a. Participating merchants will be open until midnight and there will be arts & crafts vendors.

Caroling from St. Pat's choir starts at 7p.

With each purchase from Nov 27 through Dec 18, all local shops will enter your name into the Village raffle for some fun prizes. Thank you for your support of the Village merchants!

## Thread Pack Extravaganza!

Crescent Colours, in collaboration with several designers, has released a whole slew of new thread packs. Raise the Roof Designs latest thread pack is Part 4 of “Christmasland”. This is a snowy, street scene at Christmas-time that shares this sentiment, “The street is filled with visions grand—a lovely night in Christmasland”.

Country Cottage Needleworks cute series, Spring Social, has just issued the 2nd part, Springtime Couple. The Crescent silks for this piece are

so vibrant and lush, just like springtime!

Little House Needleworks has a 6-part series, of which the first part has just arrived at the shop, “January/February” Sampler

Month Thread pack. Each subsequent release will be of two monthly designs per thread pack and include six full skeins of Crescent Colours cotton floss. Complete each month separately and pop in and out of one



January—one of the new designs from the LHN Sampler Month Thread pack

frame as the calendar changes, or stitch all 12 months together on a larger piece of fabric. I can picture all 12 designs put together in a quilted wall hanging!

Also from LHN, just as a chart, is a new ornament series, beginning with Fa-La-La. There will be 12 ornaments total. You can see them as they are released at <http://www.littlehouseneedleworks.com/ornamentofthemonth.html>

## Jan Houtman—A Life in Cross Stitch

Jan Houtman fans, you will want to get your hands on this remarkable book which contains photos of Jan’s early works plus two not-yet-released samplers, “Ora et Labora Sampler” and “Every Home Has A Cross To Bear Sampler”, Jan’s last stitched sampler. The book, 180 pages, has text in both Dutch and

English. Sales from the book will go towards the Jan Houtman Foundation for the preservation of his sampler collection.

Read all about the



Jan Houtman—10/13/29—7/14/07

“Sampler Master” as he was called. Jan was innovative with the use of color and design. His work of over 100 samplers spans 40 years! Read of the influence he gave to stitchers, encouraging originality and personalization of his designs. This book will make a wonderful addition to any sampler library.

## SYHO Designer Encyclopedia

A new stitching experience is in the making. Twelve designers have collaborated to bring you a unique project. Starting in February 2010, each month a new design will be released. Along with the design, there will be interviews with the



designers, fun stitch nights here at the shop, prizes and much more. At the end of twelve months, you will receive free instructions on how to assemble the 12 designs into a stitched designer encyclope-

dia. Designers include Glendon Place, Rosewood Manor, La D Da, Ink Circles and Blue Ribbon Designs. To see the other designer names and for more details, please visit <http://stitchyourheartout-its.blogspot.com/>

## Class Schedule

*December 12, Saturday from 11a-1p*

Do you have a stack of Christmas ornaments you would love to hang on your tree but don't know how to finish them? Join Carol as she teaches you a few simple techniques to get those stitched ornaments out of the drawer and onto the tree! Carol will explain a simple whipped/joined edge and a nun-stitch edge. Bring a stitched, yet unassembled, ornament to class. For the whipped edge, you will need the same size piece of linen for the backing along with a ribbon or cording to hang. You can also learn to

make matching cording to attach to your ornament and use as a hanger. For the nun-stitch edge ornament, bring a stitched piece and a ribbon to hang. You will leave class with your ornament ready to hang!

*January 16, Saturday from 11a-1p*

Join Carol for a spectacularly, stunning session, stitching on a Sampler of sassy stitches, all starting with the letter "S". Sounds stupendous! Take the scariness out of specialty stitches as Carol gently guides you to execute Straight, Spot,



S is For Stitcher

Shadow, Satin, Spider's Web, Sham, Smyrna and other stitches. The earthy, yet vibrant, color palette will be sure to please you as you feast your eyes upon the luscious over-dyed silks and beads. The fabric is a neutral 28 count Platinum Cashel linen. You may hemstitch it into a bellpull as shown, stitch a border around it or simply frame it. Class fee \$70 which includes chart, fabric & threads.

## Upcoming Classes (continued)

*Saturday, February 13*

*from 11a-1p* Ready to try something other than counted cross stitch? Try your hand at counted canvas. Worked on 18 count White mono canvas with Caron



Rose Quartz by Needle Delights Originals

Watercolours, DMC Perle Cotton and Silk Lame Braid, Carol will guide you in the execution of some specialty stitches. Skill level: Beginner to Intermediate. Class fee \$45 which includes chart, canvas & threads.

*Saturday, February 27 from 11a-1p* Did you ever wonder what is a laying tool? Cord Maker & Fringe Twister? Star De-Tailor? Learn what these and other gadget-y items are that are found in your local needlework shop. Discover stitching shortcuts and tips by utilizing these different stitching tools. Class Fee \$5

## Class Schedule on the Web

Well, not exactly yet.....but we're working on it. Soon you will find a .pdf of all the classes offered here at Inspired Needle listed on the right-hand side of the webpage. If you ever misplace your newsletter, know that you can check the website for

class titles, dates, times and fees. Check back often as we'll be updating as soon as we get dates firmed. If there is a class you'd like to see offered, please let us know!



*Saturday, March 6 from 11a-1p* Beginning Hardanger.....it's not as scary as it looks! Carol will take you through step-by-step so you too can take the "hard" out of Hardanger! Class fee approx \$20-25 depending on supplies chosen.

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May your needle be inspired!

We're on the web!  
Inspiredneedle.com

## What's New At the Shop

**Homespun Elegance** From the Merry Noel Collection: Mr. Candy Cane, Joyous Heart. Cinnamon Stick Christmas XXII "Santa & His Toys"

**Tree of Life Samplings (New Designer!)** New Mercies, Rare Treasures, Quaker Silence

**Country Cottage**  
Springtime Couple

**Blue Ribbon Designs**  
Winter White Woodland, Autumn Leaves and Sunflower Seeds, Just Add Tinsel

**Blackbird Designs** Splendid September Stockings, October Harvest Stockings

**Bent Creek** Uber Christmas Tree, Photobooth Northpole Party Pics, Christmas Cat, Hark, The Christmas Branch Snapper "Oh Christmas Owl"

**Sampler Cove** Bordeaux, Grace Quaker Sampler

**Chatelaine** Persian Iris Garden Mandala, The King's Vegetable Garden, Grape Thread Keeper, Polar Lights Sampler

**Kelmscott Designs** Regal Purple Crown Needle minder, Elizabeth I Scissors, Angel Scissors

**Little House Needleworks** January & February Sampler Month, Hope



**Lizzie\*Kate** Today Was A Total Waste of Makeup, Time For God, Live Simply, Dogs Leave Paw Prints

**Victoria Sampler** Carol Singers, Twelve Days Sampler

**Cross Eyed Cricket** Berry Nice Indeed!, All Through The House

**Shakespeare's Peddler** Jenny Bean's Christmas Ornament

**Praiseworthy Stitches** Peace Ornament, Christmas Poinsettia Topiary

**Needle Delights** Galaxy

**Just Cross Stitch** January/February 2010



"Quaker Silence" by Tree of Life Samplings

Carol Singers by The Victoria Sampler