

# Inspired Needle News

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## News of Note:

- Erica Michaels Trunk Show now on display through June 26!
- Don't miss "Sidewalk Saturdays" during the month of July! Many great deals will be had on favorite charts and needle-work supplies.
- Shop Hours:  
  
Wed, Thur, Fri, Sat 10-4  
  
Tuesday 10-8

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## Hot Dogs, Apple Pie & Stitching!

Many of the customers that come into the shop are school teachers. One of the things I hear most often starting in April is, "Only a few more weeks left of school." These hard-working folks are looking forward to a time when paper grading is set aside and more time for picnics, relaxing outdoors and of course, stitching, is available.

I did my part this Memorial Day weekend. My family congregated in Kentucky at my cousin's house for a graduation party. There was a cook-out, lawn games, swimming, fishing, riding the 4-wheeler or go-kart or my favorite, just sitting out

on the deck, stitching. It was extremely hot, though, so only about 20 minutes of stitching would occur before I had to jump into the pool.

One of the highlights of the weekend was when my two sisters and I sat around the table stitching. I can't say that's ever happened before and I'm not sure when the next time will be that it will happen again! It brings back fond memories of Memorial Day parties at my Grandmother's house when she and her sisters would gather out in the



My vantage point from my seat on the deck. It was quite heavenly!

yard to reminisce and play a game or two of Pinochle. Maybe someday my grandkids will remember similar events involving my sisters and I!

How did you spend your Memorial weekend? I hope you were able to be with family and make your own special memories. I hope to be back in Kentucky in a few weeks and I'll sit down with my cousin and daughter and teach them both some new stitches. They may not stick with it, but it will generate warm memories for the future.

## Needle & ThREAD: Stitching For Literacy

The thoughtful and generous customers of Inspired Needle thrilled Sandra Pointon (pictured on left), Director of Lemont Public Library, when she saw the colorful and wonderfully stitched bookmarks do-

nated for the Stitching For Literacy program. The bookmarks were collected during April and May and will be used as incentives for the children participat-



ing in the Library's Summer Reading Program. If you are interested in stitching a bookmark, we will continue to collect them throughout the summer.

# Fabric Allowances: The Long and Short of It

Here's the dream of every stitcher....you've found the perfect chart and switched out the DMC floss for some overdyed threads or really splurged and selected silk floss; a little Belle Soie and Gloriana. You tossed those threads on one linen color upon another and finally settled on the *perfect* fabric color to complement your beautiful threads. Now for the hard decision. How much fabric do you need for this design? Here is the criteria to help you decide:

1. First, you need to determine the finished size of your stitched design.
2. Next, decide how you might finish the piece. Ornaments, pillows, flat-folds or wall-hangings need less extra fabric than a design you will frame. Use this guideline:

Determine the amount of open space beyond the stitched de-

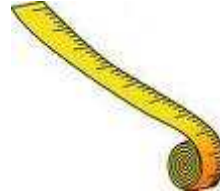
sign that you want. Then add extra for sewing/framing.

Ornaments, pillows, flat-folds: add 2"

Framed with NO mats: add 3"

Framed with mats: add 4"

If you have a 5" x 5" stitched design and would like to put it in a simple frame with no mat, add 3" to your measurement. This allows the framer enough fabric to work with in mounting your needlework to the foam core. If you are having the design made into a pillow or ornament, add 2" for finishing. Nothing is more stressful to a framer or finisher when not having enough fabric to work with. I have seen more "make do" projects because the finisher had to add some type of coordinating fabric because there simply wasn't enough linen or even-weave fabric avail-



able to work with. I've seen needlework that had to be left with pins in the foam core because there wasn't enough fabric left with which to

properly lace the piece around the foam core. The initial extra cost of the linen might be \$1 or \$2, but it will certainly be far cheaper than having to fix the project later after the stitching has been completed.

Additionally, adding an extra 2, 3 or 4 inches to your design size allows you to start stitching 2, 3 or 4 inches down from the top left corner, rather than in the center. When you consciously add inches, you are in control of your project, rather than to be at the whim of the designer or shop owner. Don't shortchange yourself in the fabric department. A little extra now will give you peace of mind later!

## How To Determine Stitched Design Size

1. Count the total number of horizontal & vertical stitches in the design
2. Divide each number by the number of stitches per inch in fabric

(ex: design is 98w x 133h - worked on 28 count over 2)

$28 \text{ count over } 2 = 14 \text{ count over } 1$

$98/14 = 7" \text{ w } \times 133/14 = 9.5" \text{ h}$

The stitched design will be 7"

wide x 9.5" high when stitched.

32 count over 2/16 count over 1

36 count over 2/18 count over 1

40 count over 2/20 count over 1

# Class Schedule

*Beginning Counted Needlepoint, Thursday, June 24 from 1p to 4p* Expand your needlework skills to include counted canvas needlework with this colorful geometric design, Tequila Sunrise. You will learn diagonal satin, ray, straight and Rhodes stitch while working with wonderful Rainbow Gallery fibers. Don't be intimidated; this is easier to stitch than you think. Class fee \$30 includes all



Tequila Sunrise counted canvas

supplies. Bring 8" stretcher bars or Q-Snaps if desired. Please call or email to reserve your space.

*Beginning Stitching over two threads, Saturday, June 26 from 2p to 4p.* Have you always wanted to stitch on linen or even-weave fabric over two threads but were afraid to take the plunge? Are you looking for a refresher class? Join Carol as she takes you through step-by-step to stitch an adorable garden design that you can finish as you wish. The pattern, fabric and threads are included. Please bring

scissors, ruler, straight pins, paper and pencil. Class fee \$20.

*Cording and Tassels, Thursday, July 8 from 2p to 4p* Learn how to give the perfect finishing touch to your needlework by making your own twisted cording and tassels. No need to buy prefinished when all it takes is some fiber and a few minutes of your time! Bring floss and perle cotton and an idea of a project you'd like to finish. Class fee is \$10.

Please bring basic stitching supplies to class: scissors, ruler, paper and pencil, straight pins, etc.

## Are You Ready for a Treat? A Dutch Treat?

One of my favorite pieces of stitching equipment is my Images Stitchery Design Lap-Stitch frame. It allows me to attach my needlework fabric to scroll rods and the rods then sit in frame sides that rest easily in my lap or a tabletop. The scroll rods are easily interchangeable and the entire lap-stitch frame is portable, allowing it to be packed in a stitching bag or suitcase. Images Stitchery has just released a new



frame called Dutch Treat. Shown pictured with clamps for use with perforated paper, this new frame is loaded with features! There are multiple holes drilled into the frame sides, allowing for adjustable distances between the two scroll rods. There is a much larger space between the lower rod and the table, giving easy access to the back of the fabric. The frame is sold separately from the clamps or scroll rods, which lets one

pick and choose which rods they want. You can have multiple projects attached to multiple rods and you will only need the one set of frame sides. The set up is quick and easy by slipping the rods into the frame sides and screwing on the knobs.

Be sure to ask to see the new frame the next time you're in the shop. I'm confident you will be equally impressed with the new Dutch Treat!

Many thanks to those of you that contributed bookmarks to the Stitching for Literacy program. We collected 41 bookmarks!



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May your needle be inspired!

We're on the web!

Inspiredneedle.com

## What's New At the Shop

**SamSarah Designs** A Dozen  
Buzzin's for May, T is for Train

**Just Cross Stitch Magazine** July/  
August 2010 issue

**Heart In Hand** Leggy Lineup: Ball  
Player and Swimmer

**Just Nan** Twilight Pearls Leaf Ball

**Cherished Stitches** Sweet Land of  
Liberty

**Primitive Needleworks**  
**by Caryn** Abe Lincoln  
Schoolgirl, Belsnickel  
Ornaments, Miss Mary's  
School Pin Keep

**Little House Needle-**  
**works** Merry Skater,



Cherished Stitches "Sweet Land of  
Liberty

The Mercantile, Simple Joys

**Weeks Dye Works** 40 count  
linen! Available in Beige,  
Angel Hair

**The Drawn Thread** When I  
am Sewing Portfolio and Pin Pillow,  
Button Boxes

**La-D-Da** The Totin' Hare, Bubble-  
gum

**Homespun Elegance** #4 in the  
SYHO Series, The Heart is the  
Spirit of the Home

**Bent Creek** Crow Berry Sam-  
pler, Patriotic Branch Eagle, A  
Pumpkin Full of Fun, Wave,  
Photobooth Flags & Friends



Shakespeare's Peddler "Magic  
Garden Sampler

**Shakespeare's Peddler**  
Magic Garden Sampler

**Waxing Moon** Frugal  
Sampling, Just for Grand-  
pas, True Friends

**Pine Mountain** June Expressions

**Praiseworthy Stitches** Strawberry  
Pyn Pillow, Freedom Park

**Cross Eyed Cricket** Peas & Q's,  
Summer, Celebrate America, Picture  
Perfect

**Imaginating** Salsa Garden, To-  
gether

**Ginger Designer Series**, Sonia,  
now available for pre-order