

Inspired Needle News

The Celebration Is Over

News of Note:

- Inspired Needle will be closed Saturday, May 29, for Memorial Day
- Shop Hours:
Wed, Thur, Fri, Sat 10-4
Tuesday 10-8

Inside this issue:

Mini Trunk Shows	2
More Celebration Scoop	2
Class Schedule	3
Just Nan Twilight Pearls Leaf Ball	3
Sidewalk Saturdays in July	3
What's New At The Shop	4

Well, we did it. We traveled to Nashua, New Hampshire for the Celebration of Needlework Festival. It was a four day stitching extravaganza, filled with needlework classes, make-it, take-its, silent auctions and of course, shopping! Celebration is put on by Pam and Bob Reed of Olde Colonial Designs.

The preparations started well before April 28, when I had to choose what items I was going to bring with me for sale in my booth at Celebration. Since I had decided to keep my shop open during the week I'd be gone, I had to leave some merchandise behind for the customers! Models were chosen, chart titles selected and an assortment of threads and fabrics were considered. I also made arrangements with several designers months in advance to obtain trunk shows to fill the booth walls with models.

Fast forward to the day before we left (myself and two hard-working friends!)....we picked up the rental van and pro-



ceeded to stuff it to the roof with box upon box of models, merchandise and display racks, leaving just enough room for the three of us to sit, albeit comfortably. After 1-1/2 days of driving, we were ready to get out of the van. We took a short detour to Frye's Measure Mill (www.fryesmeasuremill.com) in Wilton, NH, which specializes in hand bent shaker boxes. This facility is a must-see if you are anywhere close to this region. While we drooled over the beautifully crafted boxes, we joked that none of us could purchase anything because there wasn't any more room in the van! However, I did purchase just two note cards which fit nicely into my laptop bag.

Upon arriving at our hotel in Nashua, the temperature outside was a brisk 40 degrees. We quickly went inside and checked out the ballroom where the vendors were setting up. We proceeded to unload the van and

then spent the next three hours unloading and hanging "walls" for the booth. The next day we spent a whopping 11 hours setting up the booth! It's hard to believe a 10' x 20' space could take three people so long to set up!

Bright and early the next morning, the "Stroll the Floor" group came through and that was the kick-off to the Merchandise Mall. We met all kinds of stitchers, some at Celebration for the first



time and others that have come annually for over twelve years. The next 3 days were a

blur of excitement and activity and Celebration was over much too quickly. We broke down the booth and packed up the van in under five hours, dripping with sweat as the weather had turned and it was now 93 degrees! It was sad to leave, but we have many great memories of our time at Celebration. Hopefully, we'll see our new friends again next year.

Triple Mini Trunk Shows

Now on display at Inspired Needle are not one, not two, but THREE mini trunk shows!



The first mini show is selected offerings from The Sweetheart Tree. Come see many of Sandie's biscornus and matching scissor fobs. Also, there are several framed pieces such as "Pink Flowers" (pictured), "Friendship", "Spider Web Rose Alphabet" and the gorgeous "Country French Box Topper", set in an Olde Colonial box.

The second mini show is from Chessie & Me. Enjoy classic designs such as "Pumpkin Hill", "Rose Cottage Sampler" and newer designs like "Acorn Necessaire". Linda always manages to stir things up a bit by adding some unique stitch or element to her designs, making them not only interesting to stitch, but lovely to look at.



And lastly, there are no models on display but there is a pattern and

accessory trunk show of My Big Toe Designs. Just about every pattern released by Debbie Booth is now at the shop, all for your perusing pleasure. If you are unfamiliar with Debbie's designs, you are in for a treat. You'll find some Quaker, some faith-based and some charts that have "Awwww" factor. Debbie also makes lovely scissor fobs, thread pickers and needle threaders. You'll find quite the assortment of pretties for your scissors and stitching basket.

More Celebration Scoop

One of the things each vendor was asked to do for the Celebration of Needlework Show was to donate a "basket" for a raffle prize. The basket would be used for either a purchased ticket raffle or as an item for the Breast Cancer auction.

A raffle prize was lined up on a table outside the Merchandise Mall and was assigned a numbered ticket bag. Raffle tickets were purchased by individuals and dropped into the bags of the items they wanted to win. At the end of the show, winning tickets were drawn and prizes awarded.

The urn you see pictured was the prize brought by Inspired Needle. It is a complete collection of the Blackbird Design Monthly Stocking charts along with one piece of fabric with which to stitch one stocking from each of the

charts. So, twelve patterns, twelve pieces of fabric fan-folded to resemble flowers, a couple birds, a couple butterflies, some moss and trailing greenery and you have a Blackbird potted urn. We were hoping the urn would make a nice raffle prize but were so pleased when it was selected to be entered into the Breast Cancer Silent Auction that takes place at the Saturday Evening Event during the Celebration Show. The "basket" entries for the auction are lined up across one wall of the banquet room, each one with a ruled paper and a pen in front of it. On each paper is a detailed description of the basket contents. The dinner attendees are able to



Inspired Needle Basket Donation

peruse the "baskets" and then bid silently on the baskets by writing down their name and a dollar amount on the next available line on the paper. Several opportunities are given during the evening to walk up to a basket and write in a new donation amount if your previous entry had been outbid. All of the proceeds from this auction are given to Breast Cancer research and you'd be amazed at the amounts donated! One sampler hand-stitched by Susan Greening-Davis fetched more than a whopping \$2000!! We were pleased that the Blackbird urn inspired attendees to ultimately bid up to \$185! The lucky bidder went home with a great collection of charts and the foundation received a great donation. Every year, this event is a well-attended and much sought after event, all for a very good cause!

Class Schedule

Beginning Stitching over two threads, Thursday, May 20 from 11a to 2p 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. This is short notice so please call to reserve your space.



Cording & Tassels This class was offered a few weeks ago and there were many people interested but were unable to attend on those dates.

We will be reoffering this class in the near future so watch this space! 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!

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 tbd includes all supplies. Please call or email to reserve your space.

Just Nan Twilight Pearls Leaf Ball

The latest beauty to be released by Just Nan is Twilight Pearls Leaf Ball. This Limited Edition piece is simply too beautiful for words! Soft greens and purples are the fabric colors for this 3-dimensional ball and mimic the quiet gentleness of a garden at dusk. Each petal is stitched with a summer flower and is combined to

form a 4-spoke leaf that sits atop a "garden" bed. Add the optional Tiny Ladybug pin as shown on the model and you have a delightful summer garden that blooms all year round, rain or shine!

Shipping to Inspired Needle on May



24th, this chartpack includes White Pearl Beads, 2mm White Pearls and six Antique Gold Quatrefoil Beads. If you are interested in reserving a copy and fabric for yourself or a friend, please call or email Cathy today.

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Sidewalk Saturdays in July

With hundreds of new items filling the shelves and walls of the shop, we're experiencing a squeeze! To make some room for new fabrics, charts, threads and assorted trinkets, Inspired Needle will be putting out tables in front of the shop on Saturdays during



the month of July. Outside the shop you will find many treasures that might have been "buried" inside the shop. Use a divining rod, a compass, an axe-pick or any other explorer's aid to help you unearth a golden treasure of your very own.

These golden nuggets will be available at special prices while outside in the sunshine. Come early and check often because as with any expedition, as discoveries are made, new uncharted territory is identified!

Happy exploring!

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May your needle be inspired!

We're on the web!
Inspiredneedle.com

What's New At the Shop

Praiseworthy Stitches Do Ye Goode, Strawberry Pyn Pillow, Bunny Umbrella, Freedom Park

At Home With Needlework Holiday 2010 issue

The Victoria Sampler Four Seasons, Babe's Honey Farm Sampler, Friends In Stitches

Chameleon Threads Casalguidi Notebook, Pincushion and Scissor Keep

Cross Eyed Cricket Picture Perfect, Peas and Qs, Celebrate American and Summer

Homespun Elegance
Sheep May Safely



Sampler Cove "Strawberry Sampler"

Graze, Pin Pokes I

The Marking Sampler My Favorite Stitching Box

Needlework Press Sampler Notebooks

Little House Needleworks Virtue Sampler, Red House In Winter

Country Cottage Needleworks Springtime Serenade, Mrs. O'Leary's Dairy Farm, Sailboat from Summer Seascape Series

Plum Street Samplers Hare's Christmas

Sampler Cove Strawberry Sampler, Our Anniversary



"Eiffel Quaker" by Jardin Prive

Long Dog Samplers Spirit of Marken, Paradigm Found

AAN Wedding Cake, Albero Dei Giochi, Intreccio Magico

Nouveau Encore Designs ABC déjà vu Sampler, The Stitcher's Sampler, A Maze-ing Garden Sampler

Jardin Prive Moment de Calme, Tour des Delices, Carres du Printemps, Eiffel Quaker, Ronde de Fleurs

Bent Creek Journey Big Round Zipper, Patriotic Branch Liberty Belle, Stitching Row, Happily Ever After