



# Shorelines

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March, 2008

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Did you know...

Mergerized cotton is cotton which has been treated with sodium hydroxide to bring out certain properties first discovered by John Mercer in 1851. John Mercer discovered that immersing fibers such as cotton and linen in a caustic soda bath would increase their strength and also allow them to take dye more readily. It was Horace Lowe who popularized this process by discovering that keeping the fibers under tension while they were soaked yielded a more lustrous thread. In addition to having rich color saturation and a shimmering appearance mercerized cotton is much stronger than conventional cotton thread. Because of the deeply lustrous appearance of the Mercerized finished cotton thread, it is referred to as Pearl cotton. Finished threads are also passed through a flame to remove any fuzz. This produces a silky finish to the thread and is known as gassing.

Linen threads, made of fibers from the flax plant, are expensive to manufacture. Flax is a temperamental plant to grow and the quality of the finished linen depends largely upon the quality of the plant itself. The flax fibers are found in the stalk which is picked by hand to preserve the fibers' integrity; separating the fibers is also a long and tedious process. Linen readily accepts dye and is moth-resistant and repels dirt, all good qualities for our needlework.

No one knows for sure when silk was discovered; however, according to Chinese legend, it was about 2700 BCE. Historians do know that silk was first used in China and that the Chinese closely guarded its secret for about 3000 years. Silk is a filament fiber formed from proteins secreted by silkworms. Silk larva pods are dipped into hot water to loosen protein threads, which are then wound onto wheels. The raw silk can now be spun into a variety of different types of thread. Silk also takes dye well.

There was a study done not too many years ago by the Smithsonian Institution regarding the stability of fibers, i.e., length of time until breakdown. Wool was classified as the most unstable with silk, second (organic). The most stable fibers were cotton and linen (plant). I don't remember if polyesters or micro fibers (synthetic) were included in the study. And, yes, it is fibers that are made into threads.

I have yet to meet a "stitcher" that does not have a stash of threads. Some have more stash than others. Stash is defined as to "hide away or store in a secret place" while cache is "a store of goods concealed in a hidden place." Yep. That sounds like what stitcher's have.

Our program in May will present David McCaskill with his hands-on lecture, Tips & Techniques for Everyday Threads. David's lecture will be about everyday threads and their myriad uses. Call Alice Weiss or Jacke Prideaux to reserve your thread kit now. You may also download the enrollment form from the Needle Artists by the Sea website on the Monthly Programs page and mail it to Alice or Jacke with the appropriate payment.

*Kristi*

## **2008 Programs**

### **March - Year Long Project - Part 1 - Sharon Holt**

The Year Long Project will be "Band of Memories Sampler. It is a band sampler to be done on 18 ct white (or your color of choice) or 24 ct. congress cloth. Threads are suggested in the booklet or you can choose threads from your own stash. The directions booklets will be distributed at the January Meeting. No need to sign up. If you choose 18 ct fabric you will need a piece that is 14" wide and 34" long. You will need a 12" x 27" piece of 24 ct congress cloth. Check your February newsletter for a picture and supply list.

### **April - Finishing - Dot Reed**

Stitching a project is only half the fun. Finishing it is the other half. Dot is joining us with helpful techniques to completing the item.

### **May - Lecture: Tips and Techniques for Using Everyday Threads - David McCaskill**

David's lecture will be about everyday threads and their myriad uses. Kits are \$27. Bring a piece of doodle cloth with your usual stitching supplies. Don't forget paper to jot down notes.

Also, I need to apologize for the delay in cashing the checks for the Feb class. I thought that I needed to wait until we enjoyed the class before cashing the checks.....just in case there was a cancellation. I have been instructed otherwise. I will do better next time.

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**Jacke Prideaux & Alice Weiss, Programs Vice-Presidents**

**Show and Tell** - The stitching stars for February were: Susan Rossi, Barbara Baker, Kim Griffin(2), Rachel Watkins(2), Charlotte Halley(several!), Janet Halliday, Linda Dunsworth and the Gnome Lady: Sara Balough. Keep the completed projects coming!

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**Betty Van Acker**

**Membership - DUES**--It's always confusing when we change the way we do things, but change we did. Most of you understood and paid your LOCAL 2009 dues which were due at the end of January, however I still need checks from some people. Please contact me if you don't understand the change and I'll be happy to explain.

**SHORELINE STITCHERS' SHOWCASE**—I'd like to have a small display of guild projects at the Stitchers' Showcase membership table. If you have any program project that you aren't going to enter in the showcase but would be willing to have on display, please contact me. I'm looking for year long projects as well as smaller monthly projects.

Rosters are available. If you would like your roster mailed, please send Mary Ellen \$1.00 to cover the postage.

**NEW MEMBERS:** We are having a membership challenge again in 2008 so there is added incentive to get new members. This membership effort will require all of us.

**Remember to wear your stitched name tag to the meeting. You will get a free ticket for the opportunities and it is a real help to our newer members.**

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**Mary Ellen Bell, Membership Chair**

**Hospitality** – Thanks to Betty Smith, Laurie Zurcher, Peg Vezzetti, and Linda Dunsworth for the February refreshments. Those signed up for March are: Fran Lambert, Jacque DeMasters, Marlene Ezratty, and Wanda Lee Rhoades. Don't forget to bring your coffee cups!

Hospitality Helpers for March are: Jacque DeMasters, Sharon Holt, and Barbara Larson.

**Hospitality Chair – Anne Lenker**

## CHARM AWARDS

Susan Rossi set a goal and did it! She finished her 2007 Seminar piece “Hearts Gone Wild” by Nancy Cucci. Her version is called “Wild Hearts Squared”. Susan received a Starfish Charm.

The Board has approved Margaret Bendig’s 3-part program “Desert Dawn” as a project worthy of inclusion in the Special Board Approved Projects. Those finishing this piece and presenting it to the membership at the General Meeting are eligible to receive a “Starfish” charm.

Don’t forget to inform me when completing a project(s) no later than Tuesday before the monthly meeting. You can contact me by phone or email. Awards shall be presented monthly at the regular meeting and **the project must be presented to the membership at the meeting.** Notifications received after Tuesday will be awarded the following month. A current listing of projects qualifying for charm awards is available on the NAS web site at <http://geocities.com/needleartistsbythesea/>.

**Ginger Colton, Charm Awards**

**Ways and Means** - Thank you to those who donated items for the Valentine’s Basket which was won by Diane Stone. Tammi Kritz was the lucky winner of the darling Valentine’s Gnome knitted & donated by Sara Balough; thanks, again, Sara!



## NEEDLE ARTISTS’ BY THE SEA

### SOLID STERLING SILVER THIMBLE IS HERE!!!!!!!!!!!!!!

The unique logo of our American Needlepoint Guild chapter has been cast in sterling silver by a local jeweler. The sides and back are inscribed Needle Artists by the Sea. Handmade thimbles are \$40.00 each. Members can request that a jump ring be soldered to the thimble so it can hang on a chain, for an extra \$6.00.

One Size Fits All! Please support our Ways & Means fundraiser for 2008!

**Order your custom made silver thimble today!!!!**

Delivery date to be determined

Cut here and mail today:

<p>Send your check payable to Needle Artists by the Sea to:</p> <p style="text-align: center;">Alta Graham</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">I wish to order the NAS Thimble!</p> <p>Name _____</p> <p>Telephone _____</p> <p>Quantity _____</p> <p>X                    <u>\$40.00</u></p> <p><b>Total</b>            \$ _____ <b>Enclosed</b></p>
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We were saddened to hear of the death of long time member and selfless supporter, Ann Bauer. We send our sincere condolences to her family. Her family has requested that donations be made in Ann’s name to Torrance Memorial Hospital.

## NAS Community Outreach Project

Please continue to stitch for this very worthwhile project. How about one or two pillows a month? It doesn't take long. Need a chart? We have them for you!

Marlene Ezratty, Community Outreach

## Shoreline Stitchers' Showcase – May 31 & June 1, 2008

Progress on our Showcase was minimal through the holidays, but things are going to start happening fast and furiously now that we have 3 months left! You should all have received an entry brochure at the February meeting, plus it will be in the March newsletter. The entry brochure contains an entry form, information for drop-off and all the (tiresome, but necessary) rules. I would love to see at least one entry from each and every one of our members, plus one from every other stitcher you know! You are all granted permission to copy and distribute the entry brochure outside of our group, plus people can get on our mailing list by calling or emailing anyone on the Committee. The various managers will be contacting you shortly to recruit for various volunteer opportunities. See you soon! Mary Fleming

### Staff Directory

Showcase Manager	Mary Fleming
Administration Manager	Tammy Kritz
Treasurer	Linda Dunsworth
Entries Manager	Marge Roberts
Exhibit Manager	Charlotte Halley
Judging Manager	Polly Womack
Docent/Volunteer Manager	Ginger Colton
Publicity Manager	Pat Bagge
Boutique Manager	Laura Herrmann
Showcase email	<a href="mailto:NASWebmaster@miketodd.com">NASWebmaster@miketodd.com</a>

### Boutique – Laura Herrmann - TIME TO COME OUT OF THE CLOSET!

Shoreline Stitcher's Showcase is fast approaching—a little over 100 days remain! Our boutique is seeking merchandise, so I am asking all members to look at your stash and see if there isn't a treasure or two there you can bear to part with. Books, complete kits, and painted canvasses would be very welcome. Do you have a fun thing that you know how to make—beaded, knitted, painted, or otherwise hand crafted? Would you consider donating a few to our boutique? Please contact me to discuss the possibilities!

### A TISKET A TASKET

Speaking of baskets...Shoreline Stitcher's Showcase would like to present some wonderful opportunity baskets to raise funds for our education fund. Do you love puppies? How about the color fuchsia? Hawaii? The possibilities are endless and if you are interested in sponsoring a basket, please contact Betty Van Acker who has graciously consented to coordinate baskets for the showcase. Remember that you don't have to fill the basket by yourself. We will publicize your theme and your name, and fellow members will help you fill it up! Currently, Ginger Colton is sponsoring an Italian Basket and Kristi Todd is sponsoring a basket whose theme will soon be disclosed. Linda Dunsworth has three Christmas baskets wrapped and ready to go!

Thanks! Laura Herrmann

**Docent Committee**. Janet Halliday and Ginger Colton are co-chairing this committee. Please consider volunteering one hour or more of your time as a docent on May 31 and/or June 1. A sign-up sheet will be available at the General Meetings or you may contact Janet or Ginger by email or phone.

Needle Artists By The Sea Chapter of  
the American Needlepoint Guild  
Presents



## A Judged Needlework Show & Boutique

Saturday, May 31, 2008

10am to 5pm

Sunday, June 1, 2008

10am to 4pm

## South Coast Botanic Garden

26300 Crenshaw Blvd

Palos Verdes Peninsula, Ca

Donation at the Door - \$8 Adults

\$2 Children 8 to 12 yrs.

Entry form deadline is: April 12, 2008 postmark

Entry forms are available at NAS General Meetings  
and may be downloaded at:

<http://geocities.com/needleartistsbythesea/>

**The Mountain View Chapter of the Embroiderers' Guild of America** is proud to present on April 5 & 6, 2008, a two-day workshop with **Vima DeMarchi Micheli**, "Antique Tuscan Embroidery."

This is an intermediate level class stitched on 18 count canvas using three different Italian Hemstitching Patterns to create a lovely openwork design. Complete two-day workshop per person is \$200.00.

A slide lecture with light dinner will also be presented on Monday, April 7 for \$35.00. Both events will be held at the Wyndham Anaheim Park Hotel, Fullerton, and are open to all. Please contact Sandie Cormaci-Boles for further information.

**The Santa Clarita EGA Chapter** will host the PSR Meeting on Sunday, May 4, 2008. We invite you to a Workshop with Amy Wolfson of Amybear Needlepoints featuring her new needlepoint project, Serenade to be held on Saturday, May 3. The cost is \$65 and includes the project pattern and instructions and lunch. Supply lists will be sent out after close of registration.

For information contact Pamela Willars.



## Calendar

- March 6**     **Board Meeting** (10 am to ?)  
Convoid, 2830 California Ave, Torrance
- March 11**     **Stitch and Chat Central** (10 am to 3-ish) Our new meeting spot is the Café' at Ports of Call Village in San Pedro. Please call Laura for more information.
- March 13**     **General Meeting** (10 am to 12:30 pm)  
Community Room, Via Cabrillo Marina, San Pedro
- March 20**     **Stitch & Chat South** (10am to 3pm)  
Rancho del Rey Mobile Home Park  
1622 Monterey Dr. Huntington Beach  
Call Fran Lambert for information.
- March 25**     **Stitch & Chat North** (10am to 3pm)  
We will meet at the La Tijera United Methodist Church, 7400 Osage Avenue, Los Angeles. Please contact Laverne Baker if you plan to attend.
- May 31 &  
June 2**     **Shoreline Stitches' Showcase**



**Shorelines  
The American Needlepoint Guild, Inc.**

**Dated Material – Please Expedite**