



ONN-*Line*

QUARTERLY NEWSLETTER of the
ONTARIO NETWORK of NEEDLEWORKERS

VOLUME 40 | ISSUE 2 | JANUARY 2023

CANADIAN EMBROIDERERS' GUILD LONDON

Submitted by Cheryl Wallace, ONN Rep

As the days get shorter and the nights get colder, we continue to remain busy with our stitching activities, very "Busy Bodies" indeed. Our November virtual workshop with Rachael Singleton, a UK textile and mixed media artist, was a wonderful way to spend two Saturdays together, cosily stitching and chatting and sharing ideas. In the mornings (afternoon for her), Rachael shared her ideas and techniques for Busy Bodies and took us on her artistic journey through the world of textiles and mixed media. During the afternoon, we stayed online and chatted and stitched and worked on creating our own Busy Bodies.



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October brought the 50th Anniversary Textile Showcase which was held at the For Love of Art Gallery in Westmount Mall. The highlight of the Showcase was the Gold Challenge which was judged by Andrew Smyth of Strand Fine Art Services, Tricia Johnson, from the Department of Visual Arts at Western University, and Catherine Elliot Shaw, Acting Director, McIntosh Gallery. Amy Lee was awarded 1st place, Lynda Watson was awarded 2nd place, and Wilma Kirmse was awarded 3rd place. Congratulations to all three on their wonderful work.



On December 5th, registration for the Guild opens again for a 3-week period. It will also be time to choose from the selection of Winter classes. We will be offering:



Bojagi: Korean Patchwork and Related Stitching taught by Kathie Morgan (Zoom)
Commemorative Quilt: Planning and Making taught by Kathy Bissett (Zoom)
Calm Your Brain taught by Adèle Cork (in person)
Introduction to Hardanger taught by Sue Hickey (in person)
Basic Crochet taught by Karen Rose (in person)
Creative Wire Crochet taught by Judith Purdy (in person)
3D Felting – 3 Ways taught by Jan Taylor (in person)
The Creative Process: Bringing Meaning to your Work taught by Nancy Watson (Zoom)
Embroidered Portraits taught by Amy Lee (in person)
Leather Pouches taught by Paddy Richardson (in person)
Kawandi Style Quilting taught by Wilma Kirmse (in person)

Independent Stitchers (in person)

Our Speaker Series Committee has done us proud and through the magic of Zoom, we have been able to enjoy a talk from Youngmin Lee, a Korean textile artist, on Bojagi; Kaye Judt told us about the history of tatting (or macrame with thread) and Simon Beck, an installation artist, awoke our appreciation for mathematics in design, with his beautiful creations, in his talk "Snow Angels to Sand Castles". We look forward to the speakers that the new year will bring.

All in all, we've had a very fulfilling fall season and the bodies have been busy here at CEG, London. Wishing everyone the best at the holiday season, Happy Stitching.

Submitted by Lorna Anderson, ONN Rep

Greetings ONN members,

Toronto Guild of Stitchery wishes everyone a happy holiday season and best wishes for a healthy and safe new year. TGS meets in person and virtually for all meetings. Attendance at both is lower than early 2020 but we are meeting and stitching. Our membership is stable at 87 members.

Two retreats were held in the fall, one at Nottawasaga Inn and the second at Crieff Hills Retreat with 27 and 12 members attending respectively. March 24-26, 2023, are the dates for an upcoming retreat at BMO/IFL at 3550 Pharmacy Avenue, Toronto. Registration is open to all stitchers, not only TGS members. Please contact Heather James at 1975TGSretreat@gmail.com for details.

TGS adopted the Greek Cross Filling Stitch for the Royal School of Needlework's stitch bank. As part of their 150-year anniversary, the RSN decided to create a stitch bank to electronically preserve stitches from all over the world. <https://rsnstitchbank.org/stitch/greek-cross-filling-stitch>.

With grateful thanks to Barb Crowther for preparing the images.

Please enjoy images of our members' work.



Iris



Susan

Pat





Pat



Rosemary



Colleen





Catherine M



Submitted by Marion Brumwell, ONN Rep

At our initial meetings we looked at possible techniques to explore. We have begun a small project in Frisian whitework, a needlecase using typical motifs of this style of embroidery. One of us completed a scissor fob in Casalguidi. Carolyn showed a Hardanger ornament she stitched and also a runner that she designed.



Submitted by Alexandra Semeniuk, ONN Rep

The past 3 months have seen a number of highlights for Scarborough Needlearts.

We are now happily settled in our new meeting location at St Mark's United Church. The church hall is easily accessible, there is lots of space to work at safe distances and our excellent library is again available to us. As well, our guild has been able to participate in community activities organized by St Mark's, providing us the opportunity to promote SNG and reach potential new members.

In October, SNG became involved in a unique outreach project. It arose from a conversation between 2 of our members regarding a large bin of embroidery threads available for donation. This resulted in us contacting a volunteer organization called Parachute that is helping Ukrainian refugees, most of whom are women and children.

Many are traumatized by what they have seen and experienced and worry about loved ones left behind. Parachute was established in May as a 'free store'. It offers refugees donated clothing, bedding, towels, dishes, cutlery, cooking supplies and more, focusing on things needed for their new life and temporary home. We approached Parachute with the idea of our guild providing resources for women to be able to turn to embroidery as mental therapy and as a positive, creative outlet to counter the extreme stress and fear they and their families endured for months.

Parachute volunteers have heard first hand accounts of tragic losses of family members and the destruction of their homes and treasured possessions. With the supplies we offered to provide, we hoped the newcomers could use them to make something for themselves, their children or for their new living environment that would be familiar and comforting and possibly be a reminder of their homes in Ukraine before the war.

The reply from Parachute was an enthusiastic Yes! With that go-ahead, October 24 was set as the date to sort the cache of threads and assemble whatever other embroidery supplies members might like to add. The result was a full carload that included the initial bin of threads now sorted and bagged by colour, a large bin and more of fabric, boxes of project bags, patterns including traditional Ukrainian designs, frames, hoops, needles, pins, scissors, beads, magnifiers, complete kits, small lamps as well as crochet cotton and hooks and knitting yarns and needles.

The delivery of the supplies on November 2nd was an emotional experience for all. The Parachute people were overwhelmed and deeply moved by all that our guild had put together for the refugees out of a concern for their mental well-being. It took several volunteers to unload the car, each making more than one trip. Since that big delivery, we have dropped off some additional supplies and have been informed that a new volunteer - an embroiderer herself, is now working on arranging and displaying our donations to help the 'shoppers' with their selections. Also, through the efforts of another guild member, the owner of a sewing machine store has offered to make available reconditioned sewing machines through Parachute. We will be kept informed as the various supplies get picked up and look forward to hearing that they are having the positive effect we hoped they would.

In late November our guild launched its annual Christmas ornament project. This year we worked with several different designs on pre punched paper. It was possible to take on more than one ornament. We have provided examples of completed ones by Jenny Cheung, Trudy Michailoff, Sylvia Wilkins, Siobhain Doyle and Karen Boniface. Also shown are 3 Ukrainian whitework

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ornaments created by Barbara Leach and a beaded ball by Marian Moorshead. Marian is particularly proud of Rudolph's red nose.



We celebrated the approaching holidays with a lunch of hot soup and treats amid decorated tables, (see the dancing elves set up by Karen Doak and Marian Moorshead), shopped at our own Christmas sale and said good-bye until January.

While it is a joy to be meeting in person once again, in October we received the very sad news that Elaine Dunk, a devoted member of Scarborough Needlearts, had passed away. Elaine was an avid stitcher and rarely missed our weekly gatherings in spite of some health challenges. Always ready to



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help, she served in various capacities on the board and on guild committees. We dearly miss her positive presence at our work tables. May she rest in peace.

As the year draws to a close, we extend our best wishes to ONN members for a very happy holiday season and look forward to 2023 with hope and optimism for peace everywhere.

Submitted by Judy McMullan, ONN Rep

We are sooo pleased to be meeting in person again! There are a lot of masks as we are made up of a lot of seniors but – wow! – in person!

This fall we explored travelling with your embroidery (aka Pocket Project), the calming Slow Stitching, the intricate Stumpwork (a lot of it was off the fabric), the rising Parma embroidery and our usual beginner/refresher course – Stitch With Confidence. In early December we had a session of creating Christmas ornaments.

Your correspondent did not get around with her camera so most of the photos I have are the photos of my own work! My apologies!



Paper Piecing



Zendoodle



Bead embroidery



We always have a speaker or hands-on after lunch and Fall saw us explore Journal Covers, Scrappy Balls, a Peyote Stitch beaded ring, a Remembrance Day themed Lincolnshire Brooch and our ever popular Stash Sale.

In January, we will be exploring Sue Ronchka's dynamic "I Wish I Had a BIG Hat", Alison Jackson's "Hardanger: Basics and Beyond", Bridget O'Brien's wool applique course "The Circle Game", Judy Eckhardt's "Motifs and Slips" and the exotic "Glazig Embroidery" with Janet Sunderani.

Submitted by Gemma Burke, ONN Rep

The Oakville Stitchery Guild had three in person meetings so far since the last ONN report. The first meeting was mind mapping. The second meeting was making pumpkins. The last meeting was making holiday stockings. Some of our guild members have their artwork in a gallery. We have been focusing on doing recycling friendly projects using thread and fabric scraps in our workshops.

Mind mapping:



Mind mapping is similar to mind mapping on paper. You close your eyes put a pen on a piece of paper or fabric and think of a place you been to and walking around that place moving your pen to where you walk. You stitch on the lines and add pieces of fabric and beads for special effects. When Gemma drew her mind map she saw three growing sprouts and worked on that through stitchery and fabric scraps.

Making pumpkins:



Making pumpkins is very easy. It's similar to making a tomato pin cushion. You cut a big circle of fabric, run stitch around the edge, add stuffing, gather in and viola. Add a stick or piece of felt for the stem.

Virginia's Stocking



Barbs Stocking:



Sew pieces of fabric scraps together to the shape of a stocking. Add beads, charms and buttons.

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Judith Veinot



Judith's piece is hanging in the Neilson Park Creative Centre at 56 Neilson Dr, Toronto, ON M9C 1V7. <https://www.neilsonparkcreativecentre.com>



Nancy Hull

Nancy's piece is hanging in Joshua Creek Heritage Centre at 1086 Burnhamthorpe Rd E, Oakville, ON L6H 7B2. Nancy won Juror's award for her picture. <https://www.joshuacreekarts.com>

Tina is a new member of the Stitchery guild



Submitted by Roma Smith ONN Rep

Our guild returned to meeting in-person in September. What would you expect might happen to our membership after we had been kept apart for over two years with the COVID lockout? To our surprise we were delighted to discover that we had more stitchers than before the lockout. Not knowing how the reopening would go we started the year with informal styled meetings, meaning, some girls would bring projects they are working on to stitch at the meeting. Well, it didn't take long before our lead, Juliet McDonald, caught our attention with her show and tell. Soon she was teaching us how to make a Christmas ornament embroidered on tulle. She also has some of us participating in a felted wool appliqué block lottery which some lucky person will win in February.

The approaching Christmas season always inspires stitchers to decorate their home with handmade ornaments or brighten their wall with stitched pieces. Here are some examples:

1. Some beautiful pieces made by Carol Austin



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2. An embroidered, embellished and quilted Christmas tree panel by Carmen Huggins



3. An ornament by Lise Charest Gagne



4. Ornaments made by Sylvie Thibodeau for our Christmas guild exchange.



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5. After Christmas these pieces will beautify Betty McLeod's home through the winter



Marjorie McEwen, our president, tried her hand at wool applique and was hooked.



Marilyn Clulow's original creations explore the following techniques: - Sashiko and Boro stitching on hand dyed indigo fabric, red and white contemporary stitching on dupioni silk, felted wool work in an eye glasses case, a portrait using silk flowers as a medium in a stitched collage and a lovely floral wall hanging using embroidery stitches as a filler and to applique pieces to a hand dyed background.



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Well, that about wraps it up.

Happy Holidays and Happy Stitching.

Submitted by Marion Brumwell, ONN Rep

We continue to meet monthly at our Whitby location.

Again this year, the guild has a display of Christmas stitchery at the Ajax Public Library for the month of December.

We have an assignment to complete for the December meeting; we have several tapestry needles to test and rate in different categories. We will find out in January the manufacturer of these needles. Will we find that the needles we think we prefer are not the ones we usually choose?

In the new year we will begin to design a French purse using any embroidery technique and any dimensions. There will be opportunities to work on these at two stitch days, one in January and one in February. Two photos of French purses are included with our report, one stitched by Bernie and the Schwalm one designed and stitched by Barbara Kershaw.

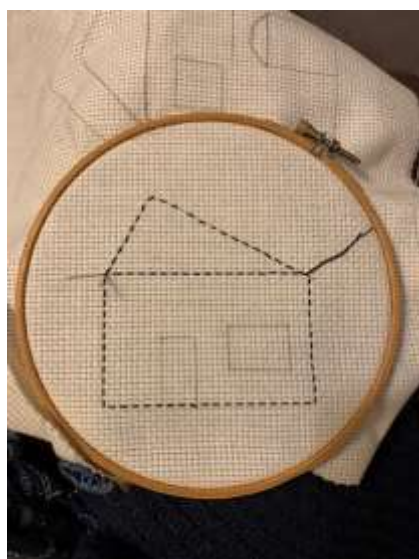


Submitted by Fiona White, ONN Rep

Back-to-meetings!

It was great to start back in September with our regular meetings on the third Wednesday morning of the month, and to adapt to our new home at Westdale United Church. We have scaled back to having just one stitch-in per month, to be held the week before our regular meeting, usually in member homes.

We have gone with a "House and Garden" theme for the year, and our first program activity was to do a house clean-up and bring in our discards to share. We had great fun turning stash trash into treasures. The exchange was so popular that we continued with it for our October meeting. At that point we also presented our "House and Garden challenge" for the year, to create a piece representing that theme to be displayed at our year-end celebration in June. We also discussed different approaches to creating a background for our pieces, illustrated with examples brought in to share by our members. For our November meeting we discussed architectural embroidery, and did a mini-workshop showing how blackwork stitches, especially the double-running stitch, could be used to represent houses. Members new to blackwork were given Aida cloth to work with (example below), while more experienced members worked on linen.



By January we hope our members will be able to share their plans for their House and Garden piece, or get assistance with their design process. February will see us planning for our Fibrefest display in May, and in March, when we hope spring will be arriving, we are going to discuss ways to represent gardens, and to do a mini-workshop on silk ribbon embroidery.

A Colour on Cloth Playday

We usually try to do one or two full-day workshops each year, but since we are still working on getting those organized for the new year, we decided to run a playday for the fall. We had 15 members gather on Saturday, November 19 to explore techniques for putting colour on cloth to create backgrounds for stitching. We set up four separate stations, and had a Program Committee member to help out at each station. We started the day with a brief introduction and a handout, and then we split into groups and rotated through the four stations, with a brief

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demonstration and opportunity to try out the technique at each station. After a break for lunch, participants were free to return to work at whichever station(s) they chose.

Station 1 was working with Inktense pencils, including the use of stamps for doing rubbings.



Station 2 was using Setacolor paints (Light Fabric, Opaque, and Shimmer).



Station 3 was printing using a Gelliplate with stamps and stencils.



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Station 4 was doing digital printing on cotton, linen, and silk organza, using an Epson Workforce inkjet printer which allows print size up to 11X17 sheets.

And for a break we had the kitchen station! The host promised coffee and tea and asked everyone to bring their own lunch and snacks. However the wonderful group of women brought extra snacks to share, helped keep things organized, and left the house cleaner than when we started.



The playday was a success and we may consider using a similar set-up for another day, with a focus on learning different stitches or other techniques.

Submitted by Heather Hollands, ONN Rep

Our Guild continued to meet on a regular basis, both informally on Mondays and formally on the second and fourth Wednesday evenings of each month.

We completed the hardanger ornaments from a workshop earlier in the fall.

Our next workshop was taught by Cori and Tanoo Angus. It was the two bead edging technique that is used on many indigenous items , such as straps on bandolier bags, octopus bags and Iroquois clothing edges and moccasin flaps and dozens of other applications. For our group, we learned the technique used as a decorative edging on the felt birds pictured below. Most of us plan on using them as Christmas tree ornaments.

We finished off our evening meetings with a lovely dinner at one of our local restaurants, The Blue Elephant, to celebrate the Christmas season.

In the new year, plans are underway to do a round robin sampler. More details will come in the new year.

Our Guild would like to take this opportunity to wish all of you the very best for 2023!



Submitted by Barbara Cook, ONN Rep

This season, we have been able to meet in person and catch up on projects that members have been able to work on and complete during the lockdowns.

Our program for this year is providing the opportunity to gain or increase knowledge in several counted work techniques. So far, we have explored Cross stitch, Blackwork, and several Sashiko techniques including Kogin.

We ended the season with our usual social lunch and card exchange.

Here are a few of our Sashiko pieces...



UPCOMING EVENTS

ONN Website

The ONN website can be found at onnquilds.ca. The main page is set up in a blog form so that notices and articles of interest can be found easily by members.

Submissions of articles, photos and events are welcomed and encouraged! Suggestions include:

- book and exhibition reviews
- tips and hints learned at a workshop
- information about a shop
- research about techniques, designs or materials

Send items to webmaster Judy McMullan at cegguelph@gmail.com.

ONN Contact Information

Webmaster	Judy McMullan	CEG Guelph	cegguelph@gmail.com
Treasurer	Dianna Thorne	Toronto Stitchery Guild	onncontact@gmail.com
Newsletter	Vacant but the webmaster has been distributing the ONN reports in an email		

DEADLINE DATES - as a reminder - - -

Issue #1 by 25 July - for August
Issue #2 by 25 September - for October
Issue #3 by 15 December - for January
Issue #4 by 25 March - for April

THE DEADLINE FOR NEXT SUBMISSIONS is March 25 for the next issue

MEMBERSHIP YEAR

The ONN membership year runs from June 1 to May 31.

**The next ONN meeting will be held online on the morning of
Saturday January 14th from 9:30-11:30 am.
Please send the email addresses of those planning to attend to Cheryl Wallace at
caw230@hotmail.com**