

**ONTARIO NETWORK OF NEEDLEWORKERS
PROGRAM PLANNING MEETING
5 NOVEMBER 2022 9:30 A.M. - online**

Attending: Cheryl Wallace, Canadian Embroiderers' Guild London (Zoom host)
Jan Taylor, Canadian Embroiderers' Guild London
Fiona White, Embroiderers' Guild of Peterborough (Chair)
Deb Blackmore, Embroiderers' Guild of Peterborough
Judy McMullan, ONN Webmaster (CEG Guelph) (Recording secretary)
Mavis Brown, Canadian Embroiderers' Guild Guelph
Marion Brumwell, Scarborough Needlearts Guild and Association of Whitework Embroiderers
Alex Semeniuk, Scarborough Needlearts Guild
Sheila McCoy, Northumberland Hills Stitchery Guild
Susan Calverley, Northumberland Hills Stitchery Guild
Barbara Hodgkinson, Oakville Stitchery Guild
Gemma Burke, Oakville Stitchery Guild
Lorna Anderson, Toronto Guild of Stitchery
Iris Weberman, Toronto Guild of Stitchery

Each guild reported on what they had done during the pandemic and what they are doing now, to educate or provide program for their members.

CEG London – reported by Jan Taylor

CEG London's classes are taught my members. They learned to use Zoom in order to teach online. They also tried 2 classes/conversations over email. Some of their online classes were: faces, stitches, plushwork, mathematical stitching, cloth books, altered pages, Tenerife lace, felted appliqué, running stitch (with 6 teachers), and they had some sessions with a video that all watched followed by a discussion.

This was a learning experience for the teachers. Teachers were partially reimbursed if they needed to buy new equipment (e.g. a camera).

Currently CEGL has classes in Zentangle, mixed media, stitching on paper and colouring backgrounds.

They have also had workshops online with outside teachers Isabel Fletcher and Rachael Singleton.

Toronto Stitchery Guild – Lorna Anderson

‘WHAT we have learned and WHO was our guide’.

Virtual:

Janet Armstrong, a docent at ROM. An excellent presentation. No cost but a donation to ROM is appreciated.

Anne Ward from UK. WW1 mystery bedspread. Unintentionally purchased at a charity shop.

Alma from Sew Fancy discussed Sashiko

Kim Mather from Kimat Designs discussed needles last year but TGS has enjoyed Kim’s presentations on other embroidery supplies

Carolyn Mitchell, her stitching story

Lorna noted that virtual programs tended to be watching opportunities rather than a time of stitching.

Mail: Helen O’Malley TGS program chair, prepared and mailed small kits to members. All were included in the quarterly reports.

Some of the presentations by **TGS members** include:

Pat Armour-shoe bag originally a fund-raiser for Bata Shoe Museum and
Stitching postcards

Lisa Carlin, bead work

Rosemary Marchant-applique,

Diana Thorne-3D embroidery

Programs/Workshop prior to 2020 lockdown:

Black Creek Village teacher taught Quaker Balls using English paper

Tanya Berlin taught two 2-day classes on Blackwork and thread painting
<https://berlinembroidery.com>

Other guilds were invited to join us to share the cost.

A TGS member chose the theme Around the World. Monthly detailed presentations were given on several countries. Members were invited to show their ethnic work on the countries presented.

Interesting non stitching activities

1. bring your favourite stitching book and share why it is valuable to you
2. bring your oldest unfinished piece of embroidery
3. my favourite embroidery thing

Final Notes:

In the contract or agreement with a speaker who own a shop, clarity is necessary as to whether or not you want their store promoted.

The program history at TGS is a presentation on a stitch or similar with a small project, an outing or a speaker. There is no way to know if this will appeal. Most members have many of their own projects to work on and the program may be interesting but not enough to make the project. Some projects have become popular such as biscornus, tablecloth project, 40th Anniversary ornament and palette to name a few.

Northumberland Hills Stitchery Guild – Susan Calverley

The NHSG is mostly older ladies who aren't comfortable with Zoom but eventually they did have one online session a month. They were able to have one in-person session then had to return to online meetings.

In Jan 2021 they had Kim Mathers speak on Zentangles and Susan Calverley spoke on Colour and Design. They were also able to see Lianne Van Leyen's samplers collection.

A sampler pattern was distributed to members and all stitched it and shared the results by email.

NHSG is now meeting in person again and they are exploring needle felted succulents. Susan noted that there are fewer attending meetings than there were before the pandemic.

They enjoyed a talk on Japanese embroidery by Phyllis Wilson and Sylvia Wilkins.

The group made poppies in October.

They enjoyed a talk by the Trenton chapter of Quilts of Valour. Susan noted that QOV are keen to speak about their work. www.quiltsofvalour.ca

They had a field trip to Knowledge & Needles in Brighton. The store has retail goods and an area to sit & stitch.

They have a potluck picnic once a year, in the summer, at a members' home.

Currently they are trying to recruit more members with local displays and by going to craft shows.

Association of Whitework Embroidery – Marion Brumwell

The AWE is a small group and they like to learn new styles of whitework.

They often take classes at EAC Seminar and they will then teach each other.

They didn't meet at all during the pandemic.

They had been learning Ukrainian whitework before the pandemic. They are now investigating Friesian whitework from Yvette Stanton's book. Another book they like is Jenny Aiden-Christie's "Fine Whitework" for surface embroidery lovers.

All the members of AWE also belong to other guilds and some have had exhibits of their work.

Trillium Embroidery Guild – Marion Brumwell

They met continuously online during the pandemic and they actually gained a lot of members during that time. They now have an enlarged membership and are meeting in person once a month.

Their teacher on Zoom was Kim Mather.

A question that Trillium EG explored was: "where do you get things that don't cost a lot of money?" Some answers were:

- 1) they got a free pattern from Lianne Van Leyen
- 2) they found a Wessex stitching pattern on the Needlework Guild of America website
- 3) they are planning to each stitch a French purse – each will design their own
- 4) Kim Mather did a presentation on fabrics
- 5) coming up: Kim Mather will do a presentation on needles

Scarborough Needlearts Guild - Alex Semeniuk

Some of the guild-wide projects have been:

- The annual Christmas ornament project
- 6 types of covered buttons
- Above was done following a lecture on covered buttons by Carolyn Webb

- Stitches of the Alphabet sampler from Kim Mather
- “Back to Basics” by Kim Mather
- The Annual Retreat always has a little kit for members which is prepared by one of the members

Speakers have been:

- Ietje who did a special project
- Barbara Kershaw spoke at several sessions
- They had a speaker on Hebedo embroidery

Speakers from within the guild:

Lisa Carlin talked about her beaded covid mask and also about resilient embroidery.

Sylvia Wilkins talked about the twist in threads.

Marion Brumwell talked about her approach to colour.

Kim Mather – evolution of the needle. The Scarborough Needlearts Guild always honours the Japanese Festival of the Needle.

Alex Semeniuk & Barb Crowther talked about the black wool embroidery of the Ukraine. Alex mentioned that it can be seen at the Ukrainian Museum of Canada Ontario Branch online exhibition

<https://www.umcontario.com/legends-and-legacies>

They also enjoyed individual members’ stories – how each got started in embroidery.

SNG had a show at the Cedar Ridge Creative Centre Gallery. It was good exposure and a very successful show for the gallery.

Oakville Stitchery Guild

The Oakville guild has fewer members than before the pandemic. One factor is that the Oakville Fibre Arts group has split off from OSG. Another factor is just the attrition that happened to so many groups with the suspension of in-person meetings.

OSG members teach each other. Some formats are: mini-workshops, such as mind maps; pumpkins, dolls, brooches. They have bigger workshops on weekends such as bags from recycled sweaters, boxes, basket weaving, dolls, eco-dyeing, indigo dyes. The 2022 theme is re-use & recycle.

They didn’t find a lot online that appealed. They found Zoom to be difficult, technically.

Canadian Embroiderers' Guild Guelph – Mavis Brown and Judy McMullan

During the pandemic, we kept in touch with monthly newsletters, to start with. We soon arranged to have online get-togethers and then started to have lectures and even hands-on sessions online. Catherine Schuler was our Zoom host each time.

Mavis Brown, our President, issued a challenge to create "Bugs" and we enjoyed the results in the newsletter. The newsletter featured lots of members' creations each month, to keep us inspired. The newsletters also mentioned many, many online resources for all of us who were stuck at home.

In 2021 we had a mix of mostly lectures and some hands-on sessions. Lecturers were Mavis Brown on Arctic Embroidery, Judy Eckhardt on Crazy Quilting, Metallic Threads with Judy McMullan,

To start the year off with a bang in 2022, we arranged a private lecture from Dr. Susan Kay-Williams of the Royal School of Needlework who gave us anecdotes about the RSN collection along with the slide show.

Lecturers that fall were mainly from our own Guild and we relied on Judy Eckhardt, Ana Maria Kramer, Elfrieda Janzen, Alison Jackson, Pat Menary, Judy McMullan as our guides.

We were excitedly making plans to return to live classes in January of 2022 but had to quickly switch back to online courses instead.

We covered Canvaswork with Ana Maria Kramer, Wool Appliqué with Bridget O'Brien, Crazy Patch with Judy Eckhardt, Beginner Design with Ruth Douglas and Landscape Collage with Sue Ronchka. We also had a Hardanger workshop with Alison Jackson in May.

Gail Bailey took in all our photos and created an online Open House for us in May.

Ruth Douglas & her team brought members' items to outdoor shows at Fibre Fest and the Fergus Medieval Faire.

We also met several times for open air stitching at various Guelph parks.

Happily, we are now back to in person classes and are anticipating a 2 day workshop with Mike Parr, of Ottawa, on the topic of 'Stitch Your Own Story'.

Embroiderers' Guild of Peterborough

During the pandemic, EGP did fabric boxes with Kim Mather. This was a multi-stage project. They also did another multi-stage project – a biscornu – using

instructions from Embroiderers Association of Canada. Linen and threads were handed out to create “twinchies” and then the twinchies were made into biscornus.

Last year they used internet resources and had a PowerPoint presentation on the running stitch. They then made samples using the ideas presented, as inspiration. They also explored the idea of “make do and mend” in the forms of boro, Sashiko and collage.

EGP has workshops once or twice a year. One was an exploration of Zentangle with Kim Mather. That was done over 2 weekends. They also had a speaker on framing, via Zoom. “Framing is Fun”.

Another online idea that they tried was to have a member-led speaker on a topic that was to be followed by a Sit ‘n Stitch. They found that people liked to hear the speaker but then they would sign off for the Sit ‘n Stitch portion.

Another online project was postcards. One member would show a photo and others would use that photo as inspiration to create a postcard. That would be followed by online sharing sessions of the members’ work.

Currently, they are each working on a blackwork mini-house.

EGP is planning a Play Day on the theme of gardens & architectural embroidery. The Play Day will have four stations: painting, colouring, printing and digital printing.

They are expecting Bethany Garner for a workshop in the Winter.

Canadian Embroiderers Guild Kitchener-Waterloo

CEG KW was not able to attend the online meeting but sent in a list of teachers/activities planned for the Fall of 2022.

They had a Learn-a-Stitch session with four stitches.

A Lecture on Visual Balance by Linda Bowland.

Hardanger with Alison Jackson.

A Christmas ornament exchange.

Net Embroidery with Brenda Warner.

Lecture on Colour and Design and Embellishments by Hilary Geddy.

Redwork with Maria Smit.

A couple of Open Nights that included Learn-a-Stitch.

HOW CAN WE SUPPORT EACH OTHER?

Mavis suggested the Royal School of Needlework online speaker series as a resource. The RSN suggests a donation of £5. <https://royal-needlework.org.uk/events-exhibitions/online-talks/>

Judy suggested San Francisco School of Needlework and Design for talks and online exhibits <https://www.sfsnad.org>, Sarah Homfrey for techniques <https://www.sarahhomfray.com>, Mary Corbet for inspiration and stitch <https://www.needlenthread.com>.

Fiona and a friend did a video on woven picots.

Mavis Brown and Pat Bowley both said they would do workshops for small groups.

Could we have:

- lists of speakers, with links
- updated teachers list
- list of great links/videos

Some lists pulled out of the minutes above:

In house teachers/speakers

TSG Pat Armour, Lisa Carlin, Rosemary Marchant, Diana Thorne

NHSG Susan Calverley, Phyllis Wilson & Sylvia Wilkins

Trillium Kim Mather

CEG London many! but not named in the minutes

CEG Guelph Alison Jackson, Ana Maria Kramer, Bridget O'Brien, Elfrieda Jantzen, Judy McMullan, Laura Dobrindt, Judy Eckhardt, Sue Ronchka, Mavis Brown and more!

Scarborough Sylvia Wilkins, Alexandra Semeniuk, Barb Crowther, Lisa Carlin, Kim Mather, Marion Brumwell

CEG KW Linda Bowland, Maria Smit, Brenda Warner, Hilary Geddy

'Outside' teachers/speakers

Isabel Fletcher isabelfletcher.com

Rachael Singleton rachaelsingleton.com

Janet Armstrong, a docent at the Royal Ontario Museum

Anne Ward from the UK on WW1 Mystery Bedspread

Alma Laidlaw of Sew Fancy www.sewfancy.ca

Kim Mather of Kimat Designs kimatdesigns.com

Carolyn Mitchell www.carolynmitchelldesigns.com

Black Creek Village teacher of Quaker Balls

Tanya Berlin berlinembroidery.com

Quilts of Valour, Trenton Chapter www.quiltsofvalour.ca

Carolyn Webb

Barbara Kershaw

Bethany Garner

Royal School of Needlework www.royal-needlework.org.uk

Other resources

Ukrainian Blackwork show on www.umcontario.com/legends-and-legacies

San Francisco School of Needlework and Design (online challenges and shows also online courses) www.sfsnad.org

Sarah Homfray www.sarahhomfray.com

Mary Corbet www.needlenthread.com

Online places of interest gleaned from the newsletters of CEG Guelph

Trish Burr at www.trishburrembroidery.com has some wonderful free patterns as well as patterns and kits for purchase.

School of Stitched Textiles in the UK offers classes in all sorts of needlework
<https://www.sofst.org/>

Philippa's Cozy Corner Crewel Work offers charming weekly lessons by Philippa Turnbull of The Crewel Work Company
<https://www.crewelwork.com/pages/crewel-embroidery-videos>

The Smithsonian Lace Collection is available at
<https://www.si.edu/spotlight/lace-collection>

Textile Museum of Canada offers virtual access to the collection.
www.textilemuseum.ca

Online shopping in Canada

Sew Fancy	sewfancy.com	Guelph, ON
Colour Complements	colourcomplements.com	Vancouver Island, BC
Triangle Sewing	trianglesewing.on.ca	Guelph, ON
Gittas	gittas.com	Mississauga, ON
Traditional Stitches	traditionalstitches.com	Calgary, AB
Wellington Fibres	wellingtonfibres.on.ca	Centre Wellington, ON
Bear Dance Crafts	beardancecrafts.com	BC
Wyndham Art Supplies	wyndhamartsupplies.com	Guelph, ON

Iguana Beads	iguanabeads.com	Cambridge, ON
Maiwa	https://maiwa.com	BC
The Stitcher's Muse	thestitchersmuse.com	Nanaimo BC
Kimat Designs	www.kimatdesigns.com	Whitby ON
Pure Linen Envy	www.purelinenenvy.ca	Lowbanks, ON