



The *Ottawa Valley Guild of Stitchery* meets from September to June. Except for December, meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month.

City View United Church, 6 Epworth Avenue, Ottawa at 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

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Susan Furneaux's Shibori Shawls
see Workshop Report



New Start Time & Library Hours

Setup	6:45
Social, Library	7:00 - 7:45
Business Meeting	7:45 - 8:00
Programme	8:00 till closing
See our website for more details	

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Ottawa Valley Guild of Stitchery

A Chapter of
The Embroiderers' Association of Canada

The Ottawa Valley Guild of Stitchery is a non-profit organization whose objective is to encourage and promote the practice and knowledge of the art of embroidery in all its forms. OVGS holds monthly meetings, chapter newsletters, day and/or evening workshops, lending library, as well as membership in the national organization, the *Embroiderers' Association of Canada*.

Embroiderers' Association of Canada, founded in 1973, is the parent organization of the *Ottawa Valley Guild of Stitchery*. The privileges of membership include: access to the Association's book, slide and video libraries and study portfolios; individual and group correspondence courses in a variety of techniques from basic to advanced levels; *Embroidery Canada* magazine, workshops and seminars; exhibitions, competitions and awards.

Website: <http://www.ovgs.ca>

**OVGS CONTACTS
2010 – 2011**

President

Jane Boyko
president@ovgs.ca

Vice-President

<vacant>

Past-President

Carole Van Die
past_president@ovgs.ca

Treasurer

Jim Cripwell
treasurer@ovgs.ca

Secretary

Pauline Karpinski
secretary@ovgs.ca

Programme

Madelaine Basta
Catherine Philips
programme@ovgs.ca

Workshop

Margaret Vant Erve
workshop@ovgs.ca

Membership

Leslie Crepin
membership@ovgs.ca

**Communications &
Newsletter Editor**

Stacy Finkelstein
editor@ovgs.ca

Newsletter Distribution

Mary Smith

Library

Pamela Keetch
library@ovgs.ca

Promotion and Publicity

Mary-Anne Plousos
pr@ovgs.ca

Webmaster

Elaine Tessier
webmaster@ovgs.ca

Official OVGS email

ovgs@hotmail.com

Mailing Address

121 Mountbatten Ave
Ottawa, Ontario
K1H 5V6

President's Ramble

By Jane Boyko

Here we are at the end of another year. Time is certainly flying by. We have had an excellent year so far. Program is going strong with 2 program evenings on lace and work moving ahead on the Carolyn Mitchell piece. There was even one evening for the design stream. As always, so much to choose from.

In addition to the program we had a perfect one-day workshop "Squares of Colour" with Pat Caffrey. I have completed half of mine and hope to finish it in the New Year. I believe that working on 4-6 UFO's might become one of my New Year's goals - not resolutions otherwise I will never get them done!

We are always looking for new members for next year's executive and in particular we are looking for someone to become the vice-president. Please speak to Carol Van Die (Past President) or any member of the Executive if you have an interest.

Lastly, but not least, please encourage your friends and neighbours to come out and experience a Guild meeting or two and possibly join up. We have a lot to offer.

On that note I hope that everyone one enjoys their holidays.

Jane Boyko

Newsletter Advertising and Rates: *Needle Notes* is published four times per year: September, December, March and June. All advertisements are payable on submission either in cash or by cheque. Please make cheques payable to the Ottawa Valley Guild of Stitchery. Submission deadline for the March 2011 issue is February 15. Please contact Stacy Finkelstein at editor@ovgs.ca

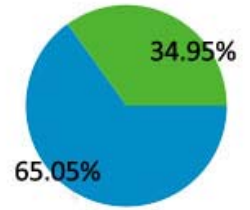
Advertising rates per issue: Full page – \$25.00; Half Page – \$15.00; Quarter Page – \$11.00, or Business Card – \$8.00

Webmaster Report

By Elaine Tessier

Statistics Revealed

It has been several months since the launch of our new website. I have been gathering statistics relating to traffic on the site, some of which you may find interesting. For example, we have been visited by 16 different countries, including Luxembourg, Czech Republic and Russia. The 16 countries are represented by 76 cities, from Whitehorse to Singapore. The most popular pages are Workshops, Programme, Resources and Membership. 65% of visits are from returning visitors, which means people are coming back to the site.



If you have enjoyed these statistics, visit your Members Only section to see a more in depth reports at <http://www.ovgs.ca/memsecure/webmaster.html>.



New to the Website this month

Now available for your reading pleasure are the various newsletters available from other EAC Chapters. <http://www.ovgs.ca/memsecure/othernews/othernews.html>. These include Cataraqui Guild of Needlearts; Island Stitchery Guild from Nanaimo; BC, Lakeshore Creative Stitchery Guild; Regina Stitchery Guild and Winnipeg Embroiderers' Guild. You will find a link to these newsletters in the Members Only section of our site at <http://www.ovgs.ca/memsecure/memonly.html>

Be sure to visit our Resources section

There are two new links to visit in our Shops section: <http://www.ovgs.ca/resources/shops.html>

The Essamplaire <http://www.theessamplaire.com/>

The Essamplaire is a mail order business specializing in authentic reproduction sampler kits and charts. The Essamplaire team research and study samplers from some of the world's finest textile collections, such as The Burrell Collection in Glasgow, Scotland, The Fitzwilliam Museum in Cambridge, England, The Textile Museum in St. Gallen, Switzerland and numerous others as well as from private collections.

Long Dog Samplers <http://longdog.pagesperso-orange.fr/>

Long Dog Samplers offers a limited but exclusive range of high quality cross-stitch charts created by Julia Line for experienced needle workers only. The charts are competitively priced and feature many traditional themes. In addition, special commissions can be undertaken to produce charts to your design guides.

BOOK BITS FROM THE OVGS LIBRARY

By Pam Keetch

It's hard to believe that 2010 will soon come to an end. I hope that your year was a good one with lots of time for stitching. As we head into winter, it's a good time to consider trying something new and perhaps challenging yourself a bit – it's bound to help chase away those winter blahs! Please consider using the OVGS library as a source of inspiration or instruction for your current or next project.

The OVGS was very fortunate to receive several boxes of donated materials recently from a former OVGS member, and I am in the process of cataloguing the items for the library. We also recently purchased two wonderful new books about monogramming and the art of the letter. I hope that you come in to take a look at the new books.

One of the donated books is beautiful fold-out cardboard with a series of diagrams and instructions done by the Japanese Embroidery Association – it truly is a one of a kind resource. We also received a book on Ukrainian embroidery designs published in the 1950's by the Ukrainian Women's Association of Canada with some beautiful, timeless designs. I am currently reading a book titled "The History of Needlework Tools and Accessories" written by Sylvia Groves. It's a fascinating look into history and the development of needlework tools. I had no idea how difficult it was (and still is) to produce a simple high quality steel needle – we take such things for granted today, but in the past it was a very specialized and skilled craft to make them, and they were highly prized.

Please do take advantage of the resources that your OVGS library can offer – it is one of the privileges of your membership.

Best wishes to all our OVGS members for a happy holiday season and all the best for the coming year.

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

By Leslie Crepin

Memberships that expire on **1-February-2010**, should be renewed by 1-December-2010. If you have not already renewed your membership, please contact me no later than the next OVGS general meeting to let me know your intentions. You may download the membership form from the OVGS website at:

http://www.ovgs.ca/pdf/membership/membership_and_waiver09.pdf

If you are unable to attend the December or January meeting, please send your request for renewal directly to the address provided below. Please remember, do not send cash in the mail, cheques only please.

Ottawa Valley Guild of Stitchery

Membership Chairperson

6301 Fortune Drive

Orleans ON K1C 2E5

Remember that many of your membership questions are answered on our Frequently Asked Questions page on the OVGS website at: <http://www.ovgs.ca/membership/faqs.html>. Or, you can send your membership questions to: membership@ovgs.ca.

If you change your personal information, especially your email address, it is important to let me know so that the membership list is updated and you continue to receive notices and/or copies of the newsletter.

I invite you in joining me to welcome new and returning members Margaret Milne, Erica Sher, Lorraine Meadows, and Meredith Filshie. Merry Christmas and Happy Hanukkah to all my fellow stitchers.

OVGS Programme 2010 – 2011

By Madelaine Basta and Catherine Phillips

We are delighted by the enthusiasm for this year's program, and especially the overwhelming response to Carolyn Mitchell's canvaswork Crazy Dreams. Since Carolyn has agreed to be our speaker at the June meeting, fingers will be flying over the next few months to demonstrate for her both our skill and our enjoyment of this wonderful design.

The technique class has also been well received. We began with embroidery on net, a very old and practically worldwide form of embroidery, and will continue in January/February by learning Anglo-Saxon Embroidery with Jane Boyko. As a member of the Society of Creative Anachronism, an organization dedicated to medieval re-enactment, Jane has used Bayeux and other contemporary stitches in costume reproductions. For our class, these stitches will be used to replicate a design adapted from the Bayeux Tapestry – the figure of the mysterious Lady Ælfgyva.

Response to our third series of classes on adding texture to embroidery has been modest so far. We hope that it will pick up in the new year, which begins with a class on incorporating found objects. This is a series designed to stimulate your creativity – perhaps in ways you never dreamed of!

A reminder that our December meeting will be on Wednesday the 8th, a week earlier than usual, to accommodate Christmas preparations by the ladies of City View United Church. We have an exceptional evening planned for you. Heather Moore will give a talk about her experience of walking the Camino, the great pilgrims' way through Spain, and the inspiration she has drawn from it for her embroidery. She will be bringing some of her work for us to see and to be inspired in return. We will also have our traditional dessert/savoury pot luck – bring a plate, mug and cutlery if you can – and Show & Tell.

Squares of Colour Workshop

By Erica Sher

Saturday October 23, 2010 was a lovely sunny fall day and a group of enthusiastic stitching addicts met at the Heron Road Community Center for a one day workshop entitled "Squares of Colour". The workshop facilitator was Pat Caffery, a renowned stitcher who has been teaching canvas work for the last 10 years. Pat brought with her a variety of coloured packages for us to choose from so we were all easily satisfied with our choice. Pat set a wonderfully relaxed tone for the day and encouraged us all to be as creative as we wanted to be at the same time as showing us some fabulous essential skills: how to mix and match colour and stitches with some fabulous stitches – Norwich, Scots and Rhodes; how to use a laying tool and how to begin and end threads without weaving into the back of your canvas (making for a MUCH smoother front!).

The day flew by for me and I think everybody else too! I personally was thankful for and struck by how friendly everyone was since as a brand new member to the guild, this was my first time doing a workshop with everyone. I look forward to the opportunity to do many more workshops through the guild.

Thanks everyone and thanks, Pat.



OVGS Evening Programme 2010-2011

Month	Crazy Dreams	Embroidery 2011	Adding Texture to Embroidery
January	Lessons 3 + 4	Anglo-Saxon 1	Found Objects
February	Lessons 5 + 6	Anglo-Saxon 2	Embroidering with Nature
March	Bonus Speaker: Mike Parr – Hungarian Embroideries Show & Tell and March Madness		
April	Lesson 7	Goldwork 1	Constructing
May	Lesson 8	Goldwork 2	Deconstructing
June	Speaker: Carolyn Mitchell – Embroidery Isn't Pillow Cases Any More Show & Tell and Full Course Potluck		

Guest Challenge 2010 – 2011

By Mary-Anne Plousos

Bring a guest to a Guild meeting during the 2010 -2011 season and you'll have a chance to win a terrific lighted, fully-adjustable, hands-free magnifier that attaches to your table top. Its large lens allows you to see even the finest details with ease. Three super bright LED lights allow for use in low-light conditions. It operates on 3-AAA batteries (not included) or supplied 4.5v DC adapter.



Members receive 1 ballot for each guest, 5 ballots more if the guest becomes a member!

The draw will be held at the June meeting.

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Workshops 2010 – 2011

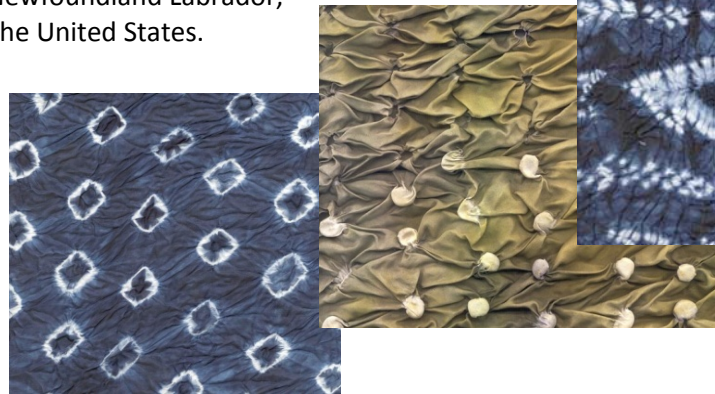
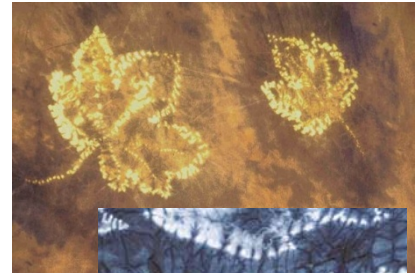
By Margaret Vant Erve

Spring Workshop: Shibori shawls with Susan Furneaux.

Susan Furneaux's workshop will be held on Saturday and Sunday, March 12th and March 13th.

Shibori is a resist dyeing technique that involves creating patterns on cloth by wrapping, folding, tying or stitching the cloth prior to dyeing. In this 2 day workshop the student will create a beautifully unique shawl using shibori techniques and natural dyes. Tassels and edge finishing will also be taught.

Susan's studio practice is committed to the use of natural dyes and nontoxic mordants. Her award-winning creations are internationally exhibited. Susan is an instructor at the Anna Templeton Centre for Craft Art and Design and the College of the North Atlantic's Textiles: Craft and Apparel Design Program. She has taught textile workshops for various professional craft and art organizations throughout Newfoundland Labrador, Canada and the United States.



Exhibits at the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum

October 20th, 2010 ~ January 23rd, 2011

TEXT-ING et al by Karina Bergmans

Karina Bergmans invites you to create your own text messages in the exhibition TEXT-ING et al at the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum. The exhibition has appeared as public interventions, a pangram, text messages, and general pillow play since 2007. In a time in which text messaging is a direct and common form of instant communication, TEXT-ING as a sculptural project is a much appreciated diversion in our relationship to text.



Report from ACRAM

By Jane Boyko

On October 2, 2010 I attended the Atlantic Central Region's Annual Meeting (ACRAM) in Halifax, Nova Scotia. This annual meeting is held by EAC for chapter presidents in Ontario, Quebec and the Maritimes and provides the opportunity for presidents to learn about changes to EAC bylaws and initiatives and contribute to discussions and ideas which are then taken back to the EAC Board. They have the opportunity to see work from other Guilds which are on display and learn from each other about issues and successes which Guilds (large and small) experience. Below are some of the items discussed at the last ACRAM meeting:

1. EAC webstore - new area of the EAC website for members and Guilds to use – we can put our stuff up there but we need to put our vendor info up so people can purchase direct
2. Awards
 - a) couple of changes to the awards: Leonida Leatherdale award (now following criteria - winner may not enter for the next two years)
 - b) Original design Award criteria has been revised and is now easier to understand and follow.
3. Christmas Ornament Challenge: 12 Days of Christmas - due 01 April 2011 - see recent issue of Embroidery Canada.
4. Auction at Seminar 2011: each Guild will be asked to donate a stitched item or stitch related items (Note: Jim Cripwell donated two of his pieces to this endeavour).
5. EAC needs an ad manager - they are somewhat desperate - send me the name or send it to Sue Thomas - EAC President
6. EAC magazine needs articles - feel free to make a submission. Check Embroidery Canada or the EAC website first for submission details.
7. Non-profit registration - EAC had the charitable number and we can use it to get access to buildings/places that don't charge charities for use of space
8. Other guild newsletters: can post on members only space
9. Workshops - questions came up on how guilds manage workshop instructors and members who billet them. Some guilds pay so much per diem to the member who billets the person or offers a free workshop to that person ie subsidization (subsidizing people who have difficulty affording workshops could billet the workshop teacher)
10. EAC wants to offer an annual stitch in public day - they are researching it to choose a day
11. Girl Guides have a craft badge - no longer have a stitch badge. Encouraging guilds to speak to local troops to teach stitching to help girls obtain a badge (be it the Craft Badge or the Misc category). EAC can supply a letter to help with police check if we are required to have one.
12. There was a question of whether the National Seminar should be held every two years with small regional meetings in off year; or every year - no answer.