



Ottawa Valley Guild of Stitchery

NeedleNotes

December 2008



A Chapter of
The
Embroiderers'
Association
of Canada

The **Ottawa Valley Guild of Stitchery** meets from September to June. Meetings are held on the third Wednesday of the month.
City View United Church, 6 Epworth Avenue, Ottawa at 7:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m.

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2008 – 2009**

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PRESIDENT'S RAMBLE

By Jane Boyko

I am writing this and wondering how much snow we are actually going to get shortly as I just saw the Winter Storm Watch coming in. 'Tis the season in more ways than one as we face one of the busiest times of the year between Christmas shopping, travelling, finishing off the last bits and bobs of stitching for gifts and worrying about the weather. I know that I will be finishing off my ornament for the Ornament Exchange at our meeting Dec. 10th. Luckily I have a day off tomorrow so it will be nice to be cozy and stitch while a storm rages on outside.

As many of you already know we have a great program lined up. I am looking forward to smocking and making a Temari ball myself. Take the time to look through the binders, on the tables at the back, at our next meeting; sign up early to enjoy more program offerings.

In November we had a workshop with Tanja Berlin where she taught some members how to do two-sided embroidery and other members blackwork. I believe everyone had a great time and I am looking forward to seeing completed pieces – including my own. Don't forget to sign up for our next workshop on March 21st, 2009. We will be learning Sashiko which is sure to be a lot of fun.

Speaking of reminders, Seminar is coming up in May. If you haven't signed up for classes yet please take the time to think about it as Kingston is nearby. Also, please try to support Seminar with the purchase of a needle minder, trolley bag, the pattern for the canvas work piece *Historic Kingston*, or all three.

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.

Remember, as well, that membership fees have been raised by \$10.00. This fee is in effect for all memberships renewed in 2009.

Last but not least, I want to take this time to congratulate the Executive on a job well done over the summer while the OVGS was without a President. I am happy to be here as President and am looking forward to the next two years in the position.

Happy holidays to everyone. See you in January.

Jane

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 2009 issue is February 15. 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

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

The Embroiderers' Association of Canada, founded in 1973, is the parent organization of the *Ottawa Valley Guild of Stitchery*. As a member of the OVGS one automatically becomes a member of the Embroiderers' Association of Canada, which entitles the member to the Association's book, slide and video libraries; study portfolios; books on crewel, counted thread and canvas embroidery; individual and group correspondence courses in embroidery techniques from basic to advanced levels; *Embroidery Canada* magazine, four issues yearly; workshops and seminars; and exhibitions, competitions and awards.

BOOK BITS FROM THE OVGS LIBRARY

By Pam Keetch and Rita Rottman

Now that the gardening season is over and the weather has turned cold, it's a good time to get some stitching done! I find that I am much more motivated to stitch in the fall and winter, and after attending the wonderful week-end workshop with Tanja Berlin in mid November I'm just itching to stitch!

We're pleased to announce that we now have the OVGS library collection listings available for browsing online from the OVGS website. There is a link to it on the main OVGS webpage, and it can also be accessed directly at <http://www.ovgs.ca/library.htm> . You will need the free Adobe Acrobat Reader for your computer to read the reports - if you don't already have it - it is available at <http://www.adobe.com/products/acrobat/readstep2.html?promoid=BUIGO> .

There are three reports available - sorted by author, subject and title. Once you're in a report you can use the zoom feature to make the text easier to see. It might be a good idea to add this link to your browser favourites! We are always open to suggestions for improvements, so if there are changes that you would like to see made to the information, or errors that you notice please bring them to our attention. The library is owned by all our members and we want to make it as useful and easy to use as possible. Also, if there are books that you would like to see added to the collection please provide us with the information and we will do our best to get them.

Best wishes for a happy holiday season from the OVGS library!

Pam and Rita

MEMBERSHIP CORNER

By Leslie Crepin

Welcome to all new and returning members. We have added new members since the last NeedleNotes including May Latorre-Griffiths, Anne Clarke (Returning), Ruth Phillimore, Edith Dear (Returning) and Anne Taller (Returning).

A reminder to everyone who is due to renew their membership by 1 February 2009 that your membership renewals should be in to me at the December meeting, or in the mail to me this month, so that I can process and send to EAC in time to guarantee delivery of the next *Embroidery Canada*. Remember that dues have increased by \$10.00, to \$65.00 for regular members and \$30.00 for dual memberships. Unfortunately, like everyone else, costs are rising for the OVGS.

To assist in speeding up the process, you can download the membership form from the OVGS website at http://www.ovgs.ca/Website/pdf files/membership_and_waiver.pdf .

If you don't remember your EAC membership number, don't worry, I can add it to the forms as I receive them. The forms on the web site have been updated to show the new fee.

Remember also that many of your membership questions are answered on our Frequently Asked Questions page on the OVGS website at <http://www.ovgs.ca/faqs.html> .

To our Readers: We have been given permission to feature a short series of articles from Symbolism in Antique Samplers by Joyce Gill. This series has appeared in the Lady's Slipper Needle Arts Guild newsletter. I hope you enjoy them.

SYMBOLISM IN ANTIQUE SAMPLERS (Part 2)

by Joyce Gill

Flowers were always popular. The **carnation** has been cultivated for two thousand years so it appears often. In Christian tradition it was a symbol of maternal love.

The **lily** signifies purity, innocence and sometimes chastity in Christian tradition and fertility in Egyptian and Oriental tradition, an interesting contrast!

The **Pansy** represents the Holy Trinity because of its shape. It may signify good thoughts. It was a favourite of Queen Elizabeth I.

The **rose** has been a symbol of love, beauty and joy from early times, associated with Venus, Dionysus and Bacchus. It is a symbol of divine love when with the Virgin Mary and courtly love in the Middle Ages. The Tudor kings took it as their royal symbol.

The **tulip** is a Dutch sampler favourite but the flower actually originated in Turkey. The symbolism of perfect love came from a Persian legend: "A young Persian boy, Ferhad, fell in love with Shirin, but was rejected by her; he fled to the desert, where he died of a broken heart. But from the bitter tears he wept into the desert sands, sprang forth flowers – the first tulips...- which became the symbol of perfect love." (www.needleworksamplers.com)



1787-88 Sampler, MFA, Boston



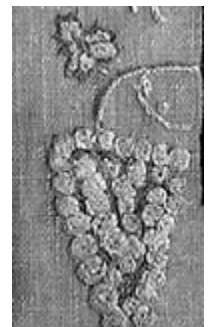
1844 Sampler (Briggs),
(www.samplings.com)

Various forms of **fruit** are seen in samplers and some types have been used as symbols. **Grapes** are said to represent the blood of Christ and bunches of grapes represent Christ hanging on the cross. In Jewish art grapes are part of the Spies from Canaan motif.

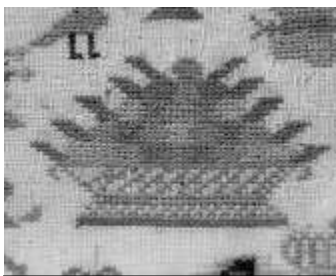
The **pomegranate** as a Christian symbol represents hope of eternal life, while in the Near East it represents fertility. It is a Jewish symbol of good deeds as well as fertility.

The **strawberry** is a symbol of perfect righteousness as it is a perfect fruit with no rind or pit. The three-sectioned leaf makes it a symbol of the Trinity and the white flowers signify innocence and purity.

A basket or bowl of fruit was supposed to signify fertility, wealth, health and happiness. It is a widely used symbol, whether for that reason or because it is a pleasing design.



1820 Sampler (Beisterling),
(www.samplings.com)



1850 Silkwork Sampler (HB),
(Madelena Antiques)



Jane Bostocke Sampler 1598 V&A Museum

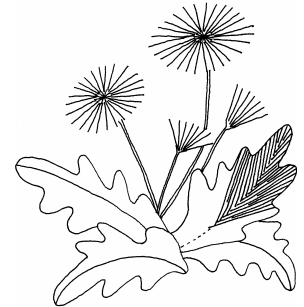
FROM MARGARET'S GARDEN...

By Margaret Vant Erve

Gerbera Daisy

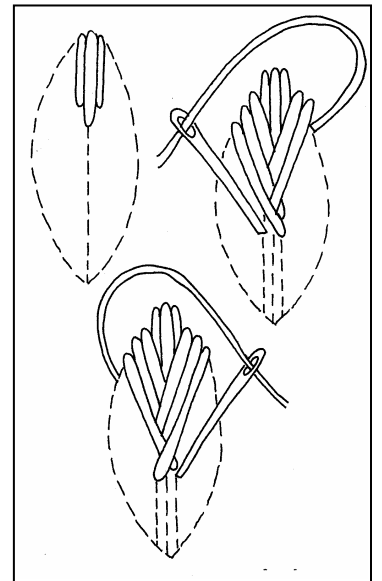
Threads: Flowers: 2 strands of various colors, Leaves: 2 strands of 3345, Stems: 2 strands of 3347

1. Draw a circle for each flower. Then draw the outline and mid-rib of each leaf.
2. Make the petals of the flowers with straight stitches worked from the outside into the middle, leaving a tiny circle in the center. Maintain good stitch direction by dividing your circle into quarters, then eighths. Fill each section with 2 to 3 stitches.
3. Complete the center of each flower using a single strand of yellow and taking four to five crossing stitches that pierce into the daisy petals.
4. Stitch the stems in stem stitch.
5. Stitch the leaves in fishbone stitch or satin stitch leaf variation technique. Always begin with a straight stitch at the tip of the petal, followed by two shorter stitches on either side of the straight stitch before proceeding with satin stitch or fishbone stitch.

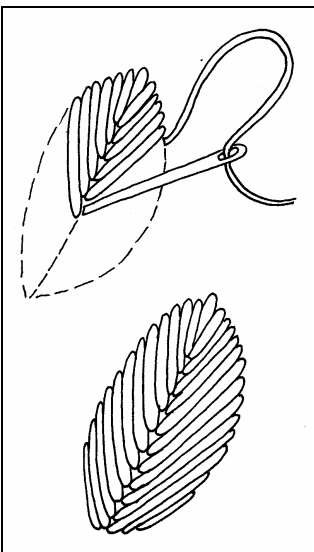


Fishbone Stitch

1. Draw the flowers or leaves with mid-rib on your fabric.
2. Begin with a straight stitch at the tip of your shape that is approximately 2/16" to 3/16" long, then add two shorter stitches on either side of the initial stitch.
3. Come up on the left outline of your shape, next to the shorter stitch, and enter the needle just to the right of the mid-rib line and slightly below the initial stitch.
4. Come up on the right outline of your shape, next to the shorter stitch, and enter the needle just to the left of the mid-rib line and directly opposite the end of the previous stitch.
5. Continue stitching, alternating sides all the way down your shape.
6. If your petal is rounded at the bottom, you will need several satin stitches to finish your shape nicely.



Satin Stitch Leaf



1. Draw your leaves and mid-rib onto the fabric.
2. Begin with a small straight stitch about 1/4" in length at the tip of your leaf.
3. Make 2 stitches on either side of the first straight stitch with the needle, coming up on the outline of the leaf and entering the mid-rib line, slightly below the previous pair of stitches.
4. Continue alternating sides, coming up on the outline of your leaf and entering the needle on the mid-rib, slightly below the previous pair of stitches. Each pair of stitches shares the same central hole.
5. You can increase the slant of your stitches by slightly increasing the distance on the mid-rib line between each pair of stitches, but be careful not to leave gaps.
6. You might need to add a couple of short satin stitches that do not extend to the mid-rib on either side of the leaf to finish off the shape nicely.

MILITARY FAMILY KISSING PILLOWS REPORT

By Lynne Demmery and Kate Dinsmore

The pillow project continues to grow and spread with tops being received from all over the world. We even have a lady in Northern Ireland who stitches for us! Because of the cost of mailing these days, people outside of Ottawa know to just mail the tops. It really is a humbling experience to come to guild and be handed envelopes and packages and bags all filled with pillows and pillow tops.

One of the wonderful things about receiving just the tops is that the size can be maintained. Although I seem to keep saying this, it is very important that the finished pillows be the same size. A few of the ones received to date have been much larger than the four inches, which has caused extra work for the project.

Because of the generosity and kindness of stitchers, the pillow project now has in excess of 400 tops to be finished. The backings are cut and the stuffing is ready to go so all we need is willing hands. Therefore, there will be another pillow finishing day at Hartman's, Your Independent Grocer, 296 Bank Street (Corner of Bank St. and Somerset St.) in their community room on Sunday, January 25, 2009 from 12:00 to 4:00 p.m. Hartman's again has very kindly allowed us to use this space free of charge as their contribution to our worthwhile project. There are groups of personnel getting ready to deploy the end of March, so we would like to have as many finished as possible prior to that time. It's a fun time, all those stitchers together in one place. You can sit and tell stories, or just chit chat, while your fingers work; and at the end of a friendly and enjoyable time, there will be quite a satisfying pile of completed pillows ready to be delivered to those who are missing their loved ones. If you have a sewing machine, please bring it, if not, bring some needles and white thread and something (like a knitting needle) to help you stuff the pillows with. Parking is at a premium in that area. Being a Sunday, you may park in the street around the store or there is a parking garage for use and a small charge (it is run not by the store but another company).

If you would like to assist us in this worthwhile project, please see either Lynne Demmery or Kate Dinsmore at guild or drop them an email to let them know at ovgspillowproject@gmail.com. Given the number of tops that we have and the fact that it seems to be easier and more efficient to have each person do just one job, please let us know which particular job you would prefer to do. Laundering and ironing? Sewing, trimming and turning? Stuffing and finishing? If you wish to do pillows from start to finish, you may do that as well. Just let them know your preference and they will get some to you in the right stage. Lynne and Kate will keep track of who has how many, where.

We look forward to all the assistance you can give. See you there!

WORKSHOP REPORT

By Claire Todd

In November, 14 Guild members enjoyed another Tanja Berlin 2-day workshop.

Tanja was wonderfully accommodating, offering to teach two different techniques at the same time. Nine people learnt the two-sided technique, which makes the piece reversible. Five others worked on two different Blackwork designs. Everyone agreed that it was a wonderful weekend, and that Tanja is a super teacher.

I would like to thank Madelaine for taking over the last-minute details for me while I was away, and on the actual weekend.

Our next workshop is planned for Saturday, March 21. Same time, same place, but only one day this time. Karen Goetzinger will teach the ancient art of stitching traditional Sashiko motifs on aizome (indigo-dyed cotton). I hope to have photos or samples by the December meeting.



The Threadworks Exhibit

By Stacy Finkelstein

Threadworks is a juried, travelling exhibit of needle arts featuring both traditional embroidery and edgy experimental design. Each piece is an original design and is based on the show theme.

While entries come from across Canada, Threadworks is a special project of Ontario Network of Needleworkers' 1200 members from 23 guilds and is supported by Wellington County Museum & Archives.

The current exhibit, which is based on the 2007 theme "Passions," is still travelling, and will reach the Mississippi Valley Textile Museum next summer. I encourage everyone to see it as some of our members have pieces in this show.

Are you inspired yet? Then maybe you would like to consider entering the next show.

The Threadworks 2010 theme is "Trees". Each person can submit up to 3 pieces (the actual work, not photographs) of original design, substantially worked with a threaded hand or machine needle. Entries are welcome from anywhere in Canada, and the entry fee for each piece is \$15. Entries must be received by April 12, 2010.

The categories are: First-time entering in Show, Three-dimensional, Hand-embroidered, Contemporary, Traditional, Machine embroidery, Mixed Media.

More information can be found on the Ontario Network of Needleworkers website at:

<http://www.onnguilds.ca/threadworks/threadworks.html>

UPCOMING EVENTS

Heritage House Museum

January 7th – December 21st, 2008

It's in the Bag: The Evolution of Handbags

"It's no wonder that handbags have gotten larger and larger over time. It's not just about fashion anymore; handbags must be functional to support the lifestyles of today's women. As the standard of living continues to change, one question remains constant, what secrets lie within her closed handbag?"

This exhibit highlights both styles of purses and displays bags made from the 1800s and on. For additional information call Carol Miller at 613-283-8560. The Heritage House Museum is located at 11 Old Slys Road, Smiths Falls.

EAC Seminar 2009 ~ Thousand Islands Thousand Stitches

Kingston, Ontario ~ May 19 -27, 2009

"The Embroiderers' Association of Canada, Inc. and the Cataraqui Guild of Needle Arts are looking forward to welcoming you to Kingston, Ontario, for the 'Thousand Islands Thousand Stitches' Seminar of 2009.

The host guild was established in 2002 and is a teaching guild. It is therefore most appropriate that there will be embroidery teachers from across the globe here in Kingston teaching you more about the topic you love in a warm supportive environment. We are excited to have some truly spectacular instructors with beautiful projects for Seminar 2009, covering beginner through to advanced levels of expertise in a variety of techniques. The NeedleArts Forum to be held at the end of Seminar will provide yet more opportunities to expand your horizons."

For more information, please visit <http://www.eac.ca/Seminar/2009/2009homepage.htm>

Gadget Happy

By Lynne Demmery

Gadget happy? So I stand accused and convicted. I love gadgets. New or old, it doesn't matter. Something different? Even better. Perhaps in the coming months, I can share more of my favourite gadgets I've collected over the years. If you know of any other great gadgets, let me know and perhaps I can review them and add them to my collection.

About a year ago, come this Christmas, I purchased what has come to be one of my favourites (and I have many favourite gadgets), my "Cordless" Iron. So it's not really cordless, but then again, nowadays, unless it has a battery, it's not really cordless. A battery in an iron, I don't think would work that well, considering the amount of heat involved. This thing works on the same basis as old time irons women placed in their fire-places to heat up, only with a modern kick (electricity).



What I got was a Panasonic Model NI-L45NR cordless steam iron with automatic shut-off and non-stick sole-plate. The reservoir is clear and easily removable for easy filling or emptying. It has all the usual settings for cotton/silk etc. Heats quickly and cools quickly. You plug the base in, set the heat setting on the iron and pick it up when the light stops flashing and replace it every time you turn your piece around on your ironing board. This keeps the iron warm enough to use each time. If you don't replace it every so often, it loses its heat. You're nuts if you think you can expect to iron a whole shirt without replacing it into the base to keep it hot enough. As I said before, It works on the same basis as if you were in the 1800's and placing it in the hot fire of your fireplace. Believe it or not, this process actually works automatically for me as I iron; I actually am able to keep it hot enough to iron anything without waiting for it to heat up again. I have always hated ironing, mainly because the cord gets in the way and I feel like I'm doing acrobatics every time I iron using a corded iron. Now I don't hate it as much. It's fun to find out how long you can go before having to replace it.

It's a good weight, considering most irons can be quite heavy. The handle fits well into your hand, making it quite comfortable and leaving you with no more tired arms. I have been told it works great for Lefties.

I love the fact that it's very portable. I bring mine to all the Military Family Kissing Pillow finishing days. To make matters simple for travel, it comes with a lovely hard carrying case with a very generous handle and a nose grip for the iron point inside the case to keep the rattling to a minimum, including the great retractable cord hidden in the base, which is a little longer than the usual iron cords. You can close it all up even if the iron is still hot if you need to leave in a hurry.

When I was in the process of buying this iron, I did some research. I discovered that not every Cordless Iron is alike. You need to be willing to spend some good money, buying cheap just doesn't work. They can get quite expensive for some brands if you're not careful. And there are some very good brands to be found. Mine in particular, was overall, quite well received by people who have one, it had many good reviews, and a few bad ones from people who just couldn't understand the concept of returning it to the base to reheat and figured they could iron for a very long time before having to reheat it. At the time, I found that I could buy it at a few stores or online, I found I could buy it new upwards of \$90.00 CDN online, not including shipping. But as some of you know already, I am a frequent EBay shopper. So of course, I just had to have a look there. I ended up paying for a "nearly new" one for about \$40.00 US including shipping. When it arrived, I soon discovered that it was practically new and seemed rarely used, it included all the instructions and the original box and it came from B.C., so no duty. I was thrilled!

Lately, I have been reading articles on the care of an iron and I thought I'd like to share some of the information I found to help keep your iron clean and in good working order. There are a few good products to buy, but if you're into the do-it-yourself, here's some ideas:

1. Keep your reservoir on your steam-iron clean by emptying it every time you store it. But if you're like me, and sometimes forget, all is not lost.

To clean your reservoir, one way is to fill it ¼-full with plain white vinegar and set your iron on high for about 5 minutes. Rinse it with plain water a couple of times to clean out the vinegar properly. Now if you don't want to use a pure solution of vinegar in your iron, you can mix it with one part vinegar and one part water and steam for 5 minutes and then drain for 2 hours and repeat again using clean water.

2. To clean the underside of your iron if you have a metal plated soled iron, spread some regular table salt onto a piece of brown paper (a brown paper grocery bag will do) and iron it until the bottom of your iron is shiny.

3. Now for heaven sakes, if you have a Teflon iron, DON'T do the salt thing on it or you'll ruin the underside of your iron. Try ironing a dryer sheet; new or used, doesn't matter, you won't damage your iron, but it will clean the sole-plate well.
4. If you get some waxy product on your iron, like a crayon, there is an easy clean up: Iron a piece of newsprint paper (you can get this at a local art store). If you are feeling cheap, you can also use a piece of newspaper. I have done batik in the past and this also works well if you get wax on your fabric. Just put a piece of newsprint on top of your fabric and iron the waxy area through the paper. It will remove the wax from the fabric. Remember when using a piece of newspaper, you may need to wipe print from your iron if you get it on the bottom. Just use a little soap and water.
5. I have read that CLR and a Q-tip work wonders on removing calcium build up from the sole-plate of your iron (especially the little holes your steam comes out of). If it's heavy, add a little baking soda to some vinegar, and with a little elbow grease it will clean up wonderfully, but don't use baking soda if you have a Teflon iron. You don't want to scratch the surface.
6. For removing starch on your iron, use a little dishwashing soap or a regular all purpose cleaner like Fantastic or Mr. Clean and nylon "Curly Kate". Apparently this works well on both metal based and Teflon based irons.
7. I know some of you know this already, but it needs to be said, do not immerse your iron in water to clean it, use a damp cloth and some soap and water and wipe it down. And remember UNPLUG before cleaning.

PROGRAM REPORT

By MaryAnne Toonders and Madelaine Basta

We hope that everyone is enjoying the 2008-2009 program so far. For your convenience, the schedule for January to June 2009 is reproduced below. Remember that you can sign up for any part of any program up to one month in advance. If you have any questions, ask MaryAnne or Madelaine – we will be happy to answer all inquiries.

It takes time to plan a program, so if you have suggestions for next year, start making them now! Are we offering too much choice? Not enough? Are there programs or parts of programs you would like to see repeated? Give us your feedback so we can be sure your needs are being met.

A reminder as well that all members of EAC are entitled to enter their work in the Members' Show at Seminar 2009 in Kingston, whether you plan to attend Seminar or not. We hope OVGS members will unlock their stitching vaults to show some of the amazing pieces that have been produced over the past two years. Check the criteria for entries on the EAC Seminar website.

Happy holidays, everyone, and best wishes for a new year filled with rewarding stitching.

2009	Classes					
	Crazy Quilting	In the Round	A Passage to India	Textile Surfaces	Elements and Principles of Design	Seasonal Stitching
January	Embellishing Stitches 2	Temari Balls Wrapping	Abhala (mirror work)	Fabric Painting	Balance/ Gradation	Crewel Heart
February	Needlelace & Spiderwebs	Temari Balls Dividing	Chikankari (whitework)	Fabric Painting	Rhythm/ Repetition	Bargello Easter Egg
March	Show and Tell					
	Ribbon Work	Temari Balls	Phulkari (overall design)	Painted Steam a Seam	Contrast	Blackwork Tree
April	Beading	Smocked Ball	Kashidakari (floral)	Machine Embroidery	Emphasis/ Dominance	Schwalm Tulip
May	Finishing	Other Ball	Zardosi (metal thread)	Machine Embroidery	Unity/ Harmony	Stumpwork Flower
June	Show and Tell and Full Course Potluck Speaker: To be announced					



Ottawa Valley Guild of Stitchery

Privacy Policy

1. The Ottawa Valley Guild of Stitchery shall collect only such personal information from its members as is necessary for the operation of the Guild and Guild activities, and to comply with the requirements of chapter membership in the Embroiderers' Association of Canada, Inc.
2. The OVGS shall safeguard all personal information relating to Guild members, including addresses, telephone numbers, email addresses and membership numbers.
3. The OVGS shall take all necessary steps to ensure that information it may have in its possession in relation to any OVGS member not be used for an unauthorized purpose, either by another member of the OVGS or by any other person.
4. Every member of the OVGS shall execute a form no later than at the time of renewal of annual membership:
 - a) authorizing the collection and retention of personal information specified by the member;
 - b) undertaking not to disclose personal information of any other OVGS member that may come into his/her possession.
5. Every member of the OVGS has the right to withhold personal information from the Guild, with the understanding that this may limit the ability of the OVGS and EAC to communicate news and announcements to that member.
6. Any member of the OVGS who fails to respect the confidentiality of personal information relating to another member of the Guild shall be subject to sanction by the OVGS. Breach of confidentiality shall include providing the name and contact information of any member of the Guild to a person who is not an OVGS member without first obtaining the consent of the Guild member concerned.
7. All personal information relating to any OVGS member in the possession of the Guild shall be destroyed no later than one year after the expiry of that member's membership in the OVGS, with the exception of any material on or reference to that member in archived issues of the OVGS newsletter and archival records of the Guild.

Free samples from Dover

Dover Publications produces some amazing art and design books – including many embroidery and craft techniques!

Recently, Dover has been offering free samples from their books by entering your email address on their website. Each week they will then send you a link to the free designs which can be downloaded and printed.

For more information, or to sign up, go to <http://www.doverpublications.com/sampler3/>

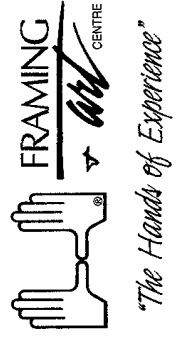
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