

Ohiyo gozaimas, tomodachi

It's hard to believe this is already the fourth issue of this newsletter. As always, I am excited about sharing all the new things happening since the last issue. If you are new to the newsletter, the link to previous issues is at the end of the newsletter.

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### Information Updates

Happy News! Jody Adams approved the one-day [Golden Butterfly](#) class at Callaway. Thank you so much for your excellent idea last year and your support for this new venture. I hope many of you will exhibit your completed pieces at Callaway. We plan a class field trip to the Exhibit that day and would like to show stitchers the various techniques in your designs. Seeing pictures is helpful, but seeing the "real" stitched design is so much better. Don't you agree?

Also, there is a second piece for potential Japanese embroidery students and those who would like to practice some of the basic techniques. When completed, the stitched Sakura design will be beautiful mounted in a boudoir pillow, frame, or small box. This piece is small enough to be set up on the new [Portable Stitching Frame](#) and carried with you so you can practice while traveling.

For the past two years, Rena Gordan and I have been working on a project to assist students who are interested in stitches for their designs. Rena has completed 17 fans to date with many intriguing and unusual Novel Effects. I have just completed the first set of 9 design instructions. Each Novel Effect has 2 or 3 pages of instructions with color coded illustrations of each step from laying the foundations to the final steps. I've added [this PDF file](#) to the web site so you can see how easy it will be to complete the technique. Here's the link to view all 9 designs: <http://www.needleartworks.com/dsgnr/jat/order/jat28.htm>

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### Stitching Retreats

As many of you know, Wilma decided to head our way the Sunday before our October Retreat. The devastation was widespread here in Naples and everywhere east of us so the class was canceled. The good news is that two Retreats are scheduled for 2006. The dates are: **June 1-4, 2006** and **October 14-17, 2006**. The detailed information/registration forms are via this link: [http://www.needleartworks.com/edu/je/retreat/retreat\\_info.htm](http://www.needleartworks.com/edu/je/retreat/retreat_info.htm).

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### Cyberspace Gallery

It was thrilling to receive a message from Dr. Michele Ellender a few days ago. She sent pictures of Hawkwood College, a residential adult learning centre located on the outskirts of Stroud in Gloucestershire, where she and other students study Japanese embroidery with Jackie Hall. I know you will enjoy seeing Michele's [Bouquet from the Heart of Japan](#) and reading about her background and the classes in the UK.

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### Japanese Embroidery Tips or *Why didn't I think of that?*

I recently received a message requesting help with superimposed gold work. The student was working on the *Sake Box* design superimposing cherry blossoms with 1 pair of gold. She wasn't pleased with the results (spacing between rows, the different size petals, etc.). She asked for possible causes. Here are some things to check and/or to do prior to stitching. Be sure:

1. The weft foundation stitches are placed very close together (but not overlapping). Otherwise the foundation stitches won't be even and the spaces will create valleys.
2. The weft foundation **holding stitches** are placed at the required intervals. Otherwise the foundation stitches may shift or roll as you work.
3. To use a Machine #1 or #2 needle for couching. If the diameter of the needle is too wide, it may create a wider space between the rows of couched gold.

4. The outline is transferred very carefully. Otherwise the outside round and round gold petal stitches may not be consistent and/or the proper shape. This may cause a gap between the outside row and the inner rows of each petal or the petals may be different sizes. Remember the face petal is the largest and the other four are the same size.
5. The center of the cherry blossom is determined as well as the petals divided proportionately prior to stitching (use a removable couching thread) or the petals may be different sizes when stitched.

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### Keys to Successful Stitching

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In the previous 3 issues, 9 ideas were presented to encourage you to stitch or to keep focused. Perhaps one or more of these "keys" will be just the idea to help you recommit to stitching at least 15 minutes each day or to keep you stitching:

- **Eliminate at least 50% of the backstitching/ripping.** Remember these are practice pieces that shouldn't be judged except by your successful growth. If there isn't improvement, then you aren't growing. There's a tremendous sense of accomplishment to look back to see how much you have improved over time when you stitch regularly.
- **Be sure your frame and work area aren't cluttered.** I believe you will notice that you are more relaxed, focused and less stressed as you stitch when you have the bare essentials on your frame and around you. You can't use more than 1 pair of koma or one tube of silk at a time so keep the rest of your supplies out of your sight.

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### Seeds of Japanese Embroidery – Robin Wilks

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Robin's column will return for the first issue in 2006. Find her interesting and informative previous columns as a HTML page and PDF file via this link: [http://www.needleartworks.com/edu/je/nwsltrs/nws\\_list.htm](http://www.needleartworks.com/edu/je/nwsltrs/nws_list.htm)

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### Oriental Embroidery Sightings

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On October 8th, EGA National honored Audrey Francini at a reception acknowledging her contribution to the embroidery world. The exhibit was beautifully hung and everyone attending thoroughly enjoyed the evening. The 58-page catalogue is on sale for \$30.00 through EGA headquarters (502 589-6956). I've received e-mails from many stitchers who are astounded by Audrey's body of work. Although most were familiar with many of Audrey's crewel and silk designs, many did not know how many Japanese embroidery designs she had completed. If you will be at Callaway in January, I will have a number of copies with me for sale at Merchandise Night (both sessions or until sold out).

Also, I received an e-mail from Mary Alice Sinton indicating that Midori Matsushima will be in Houston to teach a two-day Gold Leaf Class in April 2006. Please e-mail [Mary Alice Sinton](mailto:Mary Alice Sinton) for more information and a registration form.

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### Want to Print and Save the Newsletter? Read Previous Issues?

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Here is the link to download this newsletter as well as previous issues:  
[http://needleartworks.com/edu/je/nwsltrs/nws\\_list.htm](http://needleartworks.com/edu/je/nwsltrs/nws_list.htm) All issues are available as HTML pages if you don't have Adobe Acrobat.

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Please be sure to add my name to your address book so your ISP doesn't think the newsletter is SPAM. And, please don't forget to let me know about e-mail address changes so you don't miss an issue.

Best wishes for three months of memorable Japanese embroidery stitching. Remember, I am as close as the telephone or e-mail if you have questions or need help. ☺

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