

Ohiyo gozaimas, tomodachi

It's amazing it's time to publish the second issue of the newsletter. I received an excellent suggestion that the newsletter should be numbered so you'll note that designation in the subject line each issue.

Information Updates

At Callaway, we discussed the idea of a one-day class for students to learn more about the Japanese embroidery classes/phases. Based on the suggestion, I talked with Jody Adams, and she agreed to add the class to the January 2006 schedule. For the class to be taught, we must have 15 students sign up. Rena, Sylvia and I will all teach the class to assure the students get plenty of one-on-one attention. I have finished stitching the design, prepared the image and the description for the Callaway catalog and have sent it to Pat Callihan.

It is very important to keep the cost of the class reasonable. As we are all aware, this is difficult with so many *special* tools and materials. The \$45.00 kit fee is competitive when comparing the fee to the 2005 one-day class fees listed in the catalog. The class will include information about the phases, a little about the history, traditions and symbolism and a trip to the Exhibit to talk about the featured Japanese embroidery designs. We hope you will talk with your friends and/or family members about taking the class. The design can be stitched in a few hours and fits in an Anne Brinkley jar top, small box or a frame. Here's the link to the description and image:

<http://www.needleartworks.com/dsgnr/jat/class/cjat10.htm>

Stitching Retreats

We are just a few weeks away from the June retreat here in Naples. The travel dates are Wednesday, June 1 and Monday, June 6. There are several links and PDF files that will give you additional information including the airport, hotels within a few miles, glorious shopping, Japanese restaurants, etc. There's also pictures of the stitching room, the main dining room, a few pictures of the 83 acre campus (yep that's what they call the Moorings Park grounds) and the class cost. Treat yourself to four glorious, uninterrupted days of stitching. You deserve it! http://needleartworks.com/edu/je/retreat/retreat_info.htm

Cyberspace Gallery

During the next several months, I'll be working diligently to refine and expand the picture gallery at the web site. There is a link on the right side of the home page so you can check out additions at your convenience. Here is the direct link: <http://needleartworks.com/edu/je/gallery/05frame/> to the breathtaking 2005 Exhibit and Classroom pieces. This is the link to several of the student's completed designs: http://www.needleartworks.com/edu/je/gallery/gallery_list.htm

Welcome

I sent Michele Ellenger in England the first issue of the newsletter. I was very excited when she responded that, not only did she enjoy the newsletter, but asked if we would like to have news from them. Michele wrote in March that they were going to have a residential class in April and she would write something about it for us. I've also heard from stitching friends in Australia and New Zealand and hope we will be able to add information about their classes too.

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

Recently I sent two tubes of 145 TNA flat silk to a student. I received an e-mail a few days later indicating the color needed for the area was a reddish brown and the tubes I sent were a blue hue. We were both surprised. Upon doing research I realized that it was one of Shay's colors. It's all straightened out now, but here's a quick solution to avoid this issue. When you write down a number you plan to use for a particular area, designate the source. For example, if it's a TNA color such as 145, write 145T. For the

Japanese Embroidery Center colors, use 145J and for Shay's colors, write 145S. It simple, quick and easy and will help avoid confusion when stitching and ordering.

Also, be sure to note on the TNA tubes or in your notes that you have 16 sugas rather than 12 in each strand. That's one third more silk so you'll have fewer stitches to make to fill the area. Now the real question is...Does that mean you stitch one-third faster? Hold that thought!

Remember too that the TNA silk tubes have covers that slip back on once you've cut off the length you need or are finished using the color. That keeps the silk from pilling and pristine until the next time it's needed. Another improvement is the addition of the numbers stamped right on the tube. If you want to add "16" next to the number to remind yourself of the number of sugas, be sure to use a permanent pen or marker for the lettering.

[All 171 colors are listed](#) along with the closest DMC colors with a link to a wrapped silk color sample of each number. There's a **Silks of the Month Club** too. You can designate if you want 5 or 10 tubes mailed to you about the 15th. Please [e-mail](#) me for additional information.

Keys to Successful Stitching

Here are a couple more suggestions to help you get started stitching regularly and/or keep you on track:

- Concentrate on the positive, not the negative, i.e. think about your accomplishments and all you have done to get as far as you have...not what you "might have done"
- Before beginning to stitch, look at macro pictures of the correct technique. **The next time** you sit down to stitch, compare your results to the correct stitching. Ask yourself questions like: Is the twist consistent and the same size? Are the angles of the stitches correct? Are the stitches crowded together or too far apart? *Educating the eye is as important as educating the hand.* Remember though, don't take those stitches out! Stitch the next petal or leaf etc. based on your observations. That way, you will always see progress as you complete your design.

Seeds of Japanese Embroidery – Robin Wilks

Robin has written another excellent column for this issue. I didn't want to shorten it, so here's the link to read about the Chinese Exhibit at the Jimmy Carter Library in Atlanta. Robin's message includes the link to information about the Chinese exhibit and even more exciting several images of stitched pieces, including a double-sided embroidery.

http://needleartworks.com/edu/je/nwsltrs/5-15-05_seeds_JE.pdf

Oriental Embroidery Sightings

Randy Maynor and Robin Wilks both wrote about an exhibit of Chinese embroidery from February 19th through June 11th at the Jimmy Carter Center in Atlanta GA. Randy said the library is very close to the Japanese Embroidery Center in Dunwoody too. Unfortunately the message arrived after the newsletter was broadcast. That got me to thinking though. Wouldn't it be nice to know there was a show in an area where you plan to travel? Perhaps it would be possible to change the dates to take advantage of the rare opportunity. So, I'll be adding a web page to let you know about these events as I hear about them. I'll need your help too. Please let me know when you learn of an event by e-mailing the information to me. I'll add it to the web page. Then when you are planning a trip you can check to see if there's an exhibit in the area.

Foregrounds and/or Backgrounds

This newsletter space is for "stitcher happenings". Sometimes it will be a little background about one of the students or, as in this issue, about a current happening. Rena Gordan had hip replacement surgery last week. She is doing splendidly well and is home starting therapy. But she won't be there for long. Those of you who know her will be surprised to learn she has sold her home. She is moving to Opp Alabama at the end of the month. I know she would love to hear from you. Her address is: 1067 Angle

Road, Dunedin FL 34698-6062. Her phone number is 727 733-4964. Best wishes for a quick full recovery and uneventful move to your new home.

Here is the link to download this newsletter as a PDF file:

http://needleartworks.com/edu/je/nwsltrs/nws_list.htm

Next Issue – Travel and Stitch?

I am very excited about a new product. It's a way to take a small Japanese embroidery design with you when you travel so you can practice when away from home for an extended trip.

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.

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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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