



Carolinan RegionNews

1st Quarter, February 2025
Volume 42, Issue 1



The mission of the Embroiderers' Guild of America is to inspire passion for the needle arts through education and the celebration of its heritage.

Why does our newsletter have a different look?

You will notice immediately that this newsletter has a different look. Gone are the columns, the wonderful clip art, and the message boxes that made previous issues so attractive and easy to read.

You may know by now that Cathie Barker, our newsletter editor for many years, has retired. Since no one else has stepped forward to take on this important task, we are going to continue to share important news with you in this simpler format for the foreseeable future.

Please submit information about your chapter's activities, projects, classes, outreach efforts, etc., including photos whenever possible. Send your information for the *RegioNews* to website@egacarolinas.org. We hope to continue to highlight each of our chapters in future issues. For your ease in planning, here are the deadlines:

For publication in February issue: Submit by February 10	For publication in August issue: Submit by August 10
For publication in May issue: Submit by May 10	For publication in November issue: Submit by November 10

Any information or articles submitted after those due dates will be published in the following issue.

If you would like to help to produce the CAR's *RegioNews*, please contact website@egacarolinas.org

Happy reading!

Message from the Region Director
Submitted by Gail Smith, Carolinas Region Director

Hello to the stitchers out there. 2025 has begun, with lots of attitude in January, and now a bit of wet in February. Oh, let's not forget that the flu & its pal, Covid, are out & about also. What else is going on? Oh! Yes! The daylight hours are slowly getting longer & longer. So, it appears it is just another normal(?) year beginning, all over again.

Did you see the project designed by Jackie du Plessis titled 'Rise Above the Waters'? It is on the Sassy Jack's website. Not too big in size, an interesting method of finishing, lovely threads, and best of all - clear & concise directions. Then, there is the other project, 'Go, Tell It on the Mountain', designed by Ann Turner and sold thru The Proper Stitcher. Both projects were/are fundraisers for Hurricane Helene damage. I do not know if they are still available, but you can always contact the 2 shops & see. The Proper Stitcher's email is theproperstitcher@gmail.com; Sassy Jack's email is sassyjacksstitchery@gmail.com.

If you didn't know, the Carolinas Region Spring Retreat is open for registration, and so is the hosting resort, Lake Junaluska. All the information is on the Region website, egacarolinas.org. Find the button that is labeled Spring Retreat 2025 and click on it! We had a lovely time last year and this year will be just a smidge better. There will be a new twist on learning & it is called Teaching Tables. Come see what it's all about.

Take time to check on your stitcher friends. Have you been thinking of calling someone, but the day gets past you? Call them for a quick chat. Check in on them & let them hear your voice. If they don't pick up, well, be sure to do that antiquated behavior and leave a message!

Well, it is time for me to get back to writing my region report. All my dishes are washed, the little ironing is done, the bathrooms are cleaned, this short missive is written, so there are no more excuses, I guess. Did you hear that? Yes, it was a huge sigh, but it needs to be written sooner than later, so I will close this for now.

Yours in stitching,
Gail Smith
Carolinas Region Director

Volunteers Needed!

The Carolinas Region is looking for a few good members to fill needed positions. Think about how you can help your region move ahead.

Contact nominations@egacarolinas.org for more information.

*Gold Thread Awards: Deadline for Nominations is May 1, 2025
Submitted by Carole Overton, CAR Website/ZOOM Coordinator*

Over the years, EGA National has offered a special award to those whose support for their chapters, regions, and/or National has been outstanding. This award is considered by most members to be the highest and most treasured one given by the organization.

So how does this process work? Each year, EGA solicits nominations from its members. Then, a National EGA committee selects the winners. As described on the EGA National website:

EGA's Gold Thread Awards bestow a total of 12 awards to outstanding individuals at the regional or local level who have given freely of their time and talents, and best exemplify EGA's purpose. The 12 awards represent the 12 EGA regions, and a national Gold Thread Award recipient is also chosen from among the region recipients. Occurring annually alongside EGA National Seminar, recipients have the option to receive their recognition at the Education Awards Presentation at the opening banquet.

Any EGA member may nominate someone. The nomination process is very simple. Applications must be received no later than May 1, 2024. Click on this link for details:

<https://egausa.org/app/uploads/2024/10/Gold-Thread-Award-2024.pdf>

The Carolinas Region has been fortunate to have had a long line of winners, some of whom have gone on to be selected as the National Gold Thread winner. For example, here are the winners from the past 10 years:

2014	Brenda Hedge	
2015	Emma Jane Mehard	
2016		
2017	Sue Osterberg	
2018	Julie Anderson	
2019	Linda Morrison	
2020	Cathie Barker	
2021	Laura Smith	Also selected as National winner
2022	Kim Sanders	Also selected as National winner
2023	Carole Overton	
2024	Janet Noble	Also selected as National winner
2025	??? Who will it be?	

You will notice that no one was named in 2016. Don't let our region have another year without a winner! We know there are many members who work tirelessly on behalf of EGA. Nominate someone before May 1!

Aiken Stitchin' Belles Launch a Homeschool Stitching Program *Submitted by Susan MacRae, President, Aiken Stitchin' Belles*

January marks the start of an exciting new outreach program the Aiken Stitchin' Belles are involved with - a Homeschool Stitching Program. Last August, the Chapter participated in the Family Fun Day at the Aiken County Historical Museum which took place during our annual Needlework Exhibit there. Several members helped at tables with Chapter information, examples of our work, and free kits for people to take. The turnout was big, with lots of people showing interest in the exhibit as well as the kits.

Carole Overton (L) and Yvette McCord (R) at the table with cross stitch designs created by Carole for the kits.



Another table had a surface embroidery design created by Susan MacRae, kitted up for people to take.



Chapter member Christa Evans answers questions and encourages youngsters.



Yvette McCord (R) explains the details of a counted thread project stitched by Maxine Martin.





← Jessica Hnatiuk joins her niece who looks ready to stitch one of the kits!

Shortly after this fun event, we were contacted by a group of Homeschool parents who asked if we would be willing to do a field trip for their children, with some hands-on stitching using the kits we had created. We happily agreed! The session was attended by about a dozen children and several Moms and was so well received that we were asked if it could be a regularly scheduled activity for them.

Carole Overton volunteered to organize this effort, working with the lead Mom as well as with the Museum to see if they would host the sessions, which they agreed to do.

After holding a planning session with some of our creative and eager members, we developed a list of projects to take us through this year. The kids range in age from 6 to 9, essentially, and the mothers want to join us, so we have planned a series of simple projects, all of which will include the use of needle and thread. At the request of the homeschoolers, we will take the summer and holiday months off.

January - stitch your initials on a “swag bag” to hold your stitching tools

February - construct and embellish a needle book out of felt shapes

March - construct, embellish, and stuff a felt carrot

April - make and embellish a fabric flower

May - make a crazy quilt (baby doll-sized) or crazy quilt butterfly

June - make friendship bracelets

September - make snowmen out of buttons or felt squares/decorate

October - make wreaths out of yarn-covered rings or make simple Dorset button

The following members have volunteered to lead the sessions: Dorothy Allen, Delisa Beasley, Belinda Ebert, Maxine Martin, Susan MacRae, Yvette McCord, Diana Parfitt, and Carole Overton (Coordinator).

This is an exciting experiment for us, and we anticipate adjusting our plans as we get to the know the children’s strengths and weaknesses.

EGA's mission is "Inspiring passion for needle arts through education and the celebration of its heritage." The organization is also looking for ways to increase membership, attract new and younger members, and expand our footprint in our community. This Homeschool project will help the Aiken Stitchin' Belles address all of these needs.

The Laurel Chapter Gets Involved

Submitted by Janet Stewart, Publicity Chair, The Laurel Chapter

From Education Chair, Barbara Dexter-Smith, barbaradextersmith@gmail.com



The Wendy Moore Zoom class, "Sunrise Reflection," will be held on Friday, June 27, and Saturday, June 28, 2025, at Grace Lutheran Church, Hendersonville. Those who live far away may join this Zoom class from home. The cost is \$75 for the kit. You may make a one-time payment of \$75 or two payments of \$37.50 each, payable to "The Laurel Chapter". The guild will pay the teacher fee. There will be a sign-up sheet at the February 6th Meeting. Contact Barbara for more information (see email above).

The Laurel Chapter's January Program: Project Linus

The January meeting of the Laurel Chapter was an outreach to serve Project Linus, a non-profit that provides blankets to children in crisis situations. The chapter members created no-sew fleece blankets to be donated to the local chapter of Project Linus. This is a continuing project initiated in 2015. To date the Laurel Chapter has contributed over 270 blankets to provide "hugs" to children.

Interview with Laura Smith, President, Golden Needles

Submitted by Carole Overton on behalf of Laura Smith, President, Golden Needles Chapter

Most of you know of Laura Smith, a nationally known designer and teacher who has contributed so much to EGA. You might have attended the virtual lecture she gave for us in 2021 or taken one of the many classes she has offered to our region.

EGA recently published an interview with Laura about mixed media. She notes that “Patty Schmid, a member of my chapter is mentioned. Daphne Sherman, another chapter member edited my input. So grateful to both of them and Rand Duren, our EGA Media Coordinator.”

You can read this very interesting article here:

<https://egausa.org/interview-with-laura-smith-guiding-principles-of-mixed-media-embroidery/>

The Tryon Chapter Has Been Busy!

Submitted by Kristin Cooke, President, Tryon Chapter

The Tryon Chapter of EGA, located in New Bern, NC, has just finished our annual Winter Retreat in Swansboro. A great time was had by all, members and guests alike, with lots of stitching, snacking, and laughing! We’re already looking forward to next year!

In April, we will have a table at the Bi-annual Quilt Show here in New Bern. We will be disseminating information about our club and displaying samples of our work.

In October, one of our members, Mary Grosser, has invited us to take part in the Art Show she founded, called “A Kaleidoscope of Color”. It will showcase our needlework and watercolors done by other artists. Some of the watercolors will be representations of our needlework pieces displayed in the show. It should be a great way to share our skills with the community!

Don’t Forget to Patronize the Shops We Have Toured Virtually

Submitted by Carole Overton, CAR Website/ZOOM Coordinator

Over the past 4 years, members of the Carolinas Region have enjoyed ZOOM tours with 20 needlework shops around the country. Most of them are still in business and are proving to be wonderful sources of supplies, support, and even classes. When you are looking for resources, don’t forget to consider these shops. To remind you, the next page shows is a partial list:

Shop	Website	Contact info	Focus
Sandy's	Call or visit for info Cash or check only	918 Kanuga Road Hendersonville, NC 28739 828-693-4499	Geometric canvas Cross stitch
The Stitchin' Kitten	https://the-stitchin-kitten.myshopify.com/	7325 St. Andrews Road Irmo, SC 29063 803-401-5542	Cross stitch
Stitchin' Fox	https://www.stitchingfox.com/	22349 Asheville Highway Landrum, SC 29356 864-457-1144 Text: 864-510-2061	Painted canvas
Moore than Needlepoint	https://moorethanneedlepoint.com/	850 Linden Road Pinehurst, NC 28374 910-295-3727	Painted canvas Cross stitch Knitting
Hobby House Needleworks	https://hobbyhouseneedleworks.com/	1433 Pittsford Victor Road Victor, NY 14564 Phone: 585-586-6658	Cross stitch Quilting Wool Kids
Snuggly Monkey	https://www.snugglymonkey.com/	2721 Durham-Chapel Hill Blvd. Suite #3 Durham, NC 27707 984-439-8244	Sashiko Japanese suppliers
The Stitchery Nook	https://www.cross-stitch-usa.com/	635 Main Street Osage, Iowa 50461 641-732-5329 or 888-406-6665	Cross stitch
Needlepoint Junction	https://shopneedlepointjunction.com/	1000 William Hilton Parkway Ste J7E, Village at Wexford Hilton Head, SC 29928 843-842-8488	Knitting Painted canvas Cross stitch
Purl's Yarn Emporium	https://purlsyarnemporium.com/	830 Hendersonville Rd Asheville NC 28803 828-253-2750	Knitting Crochet Yarns

continued on next page

Shop	Website	Contact info	Focus
Shepherd's Bush Fine Needlework	https://www.shepherdsbush.net/	220 24th Street Ogden, Utah 84401 801-399-4546	Cross stitch

POSTINGS

Did you know that EGA National and the Carolinas Region offer **scholarships** to their members? Want to take a needlework class? There's a scholarship. Want to attend a national seminar? There's a scholarship. Click on these links for more information:

National Scholarships and Awards:

<https://egausa.org/scholarships-and-awards/>

Carolinas Region Scholarships and Awards:

<https://www.egacarolinas.org/scholarships-awards/>

CAR Region Spring Retreat 2025

Lake Junaluska, NC

April 25 – 27, 2025

Have you registered for the retreat and reserved your room? **DO IT NOW** so you won't be left out!

REGISTRATION/RESERVATION DEADLINE: March 21, 2025

For more information, see the retreat packet:

https://www.egacarolinas.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/01/2025-Spring_FINAL_01-03-25.pdf