

Cactus Needle

The Embroiderers' Guild of America, Inc.

Tucson Chapter

www.tucsonega.org

Vol. 43 No. 01

January 2025

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Gretchen McGill

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Susan Willis

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Open

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Kathleen Magee

Saturday Meetings:

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BREAK-OUT GROUPS

BEADING:

Shawn Brown

Sharon Marchant

EGA MISSION STATEMENT

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

Hello again Stitching Buddies,



January and February have never been my favorite months. I am up in Michigan visiting my daughter. It's 12 degrees outside and has been snowing continuously for four days. Looking out the window I see a landscape of pure white, broken only by the brown trunks of the trees and a pale gray sky. It is

beautiful in its own way, but I am pining for just a bit of DMC444 and DMC 505. I'm anxious to get home where the lovely colors of my cross-stitch, quilting, and Temari projects await me!

I am also looking forward to the February program, Dorset Buttons! It's fun to think that I will be re-creating something that was popular in 1622. Unfortunately, the Dorset Button industry faded in 1850 when the button making machine was invented. Ahhh, progress.

Anyway, be sure to double-check the items you need to bring for the Buttons, make a note of the other opportunities that have been planned for the month, and happy stitching until I see you again on February 6!

Janet

HOSPITALITY

Doris Fello

We will have three members bringing treats in January. **Laura Cotter, Denise Kelly** and **Barbara Avery** will be providing them for our nibbling pleasure.



Photo shows utensils that were left at the December potluck. Please look closely and if they are yours, let me know so I can return them to you.

NEWSLETTER

Susan Willis

The newsletter deadline for the February issue is February 20th. Please respect the deadline date as noted. Thank you.

MEMBERSHIP

Helen Salkowski

😊 Please welcome our newest members Nancy Hahn, Huong Huynh, and Jamie Nelson. We hope to see you at a meeting soon.



A reminder for everyone, please wear a name tag to make it easier for us to meet and greet each other. And new this year is a special drawing at each monthly meeting, for wearing a stitched name tag, you can win a prize!



One more thing to mention...it's hard to believe, but it's been one whole year since EGA National revised the Membership process. Consequently, we have members renewing throughout the year based on the month they joined. National informed me that members will get an email reminder directly from EGA National in time for them to renew during the month their membership expires. For the month of February, we have three (3) members who are up for renewal: Erica Douglas, Alma Gholston, and Sarah Kochanowski. Thanks for being with us this past year, and we hope to have you back for the coming year!

Hello Stitches,

For the Thursday, February 6th Dorset Button Project send your RSVP to casademcgill@gmail.com by Thursday, January 30th.

In March we will hold our Second Annual Stash Spring Cleaning (also known as "The Annual Resale of Member's Excess"). Please start bringing in your excess inventory to any meeting.

Below are more details and links for our upcoming monthly program activities:

**February 6th, 2025
Dorset Buttons
Designed by Hope A. Wright**

In February, we will try our hand at Dorset Buttons, another EGA Petite Project.

The buttons originated in the early 1600's in Dorset, England and continued to provide income to local families until the industrial revolution in the mid 1800's. They were typically made from locally sourced materials such as ram's horn rings and linen thread. We will be using metal rings (sourced from Amazon) and pearl cotton thread (sourced from our member donated supplies).

These fun little trinkets are easy and fun to make and can easily be completed at our meeting. We will be providing the metal rings and pearl cotton in various colors and sizes, but feel free to bring your own if you have a particular color scheme in mind.



You can download the Petite Project instructions, after logging in to the EGA National website, <https://egausa.org/app/uploads/2023/08/protected-petite-project-dorset-buttons-2023.pdf>

Please contact me to arrange borrowing books from the library.

Here is the list of books available in our extensive library:

<https://cloud.collectorz.com/egalibrarytucson/books>

In addition, we have several hundred books listed on our website: www.tucsonega.org

[Member Resources Library Books](#)

IMPORTANT WEBSITES

tucsonega.org

psrega.org

egausa.org

facebook.com

stitchingjules.com

Instagram.com

antiquepatternlibrary.org

archive.org

threadabead.com

rsnstitchbank.org/stitch

Tucson EGA Chapter website

Pacific Southwestern Region website

EGA National website

EGA Stitch A Long / Facebook **Stitch A Long (SAL)** group. Region now has a Facebook page, so, look us up and like the page.

EGA Tucson- Facebook page

listing of floss tube videos (cross stitch)

#tucsonstitchers or #TucsonEGA

Antique Pattern Library

Antique and vintage book resource

Patterns for beaded objects

Royal School of Needlepoint stitch bank for reference to many stitches

WAYS AND MEANS

Tammy Krassy

We are gathering supplies to put together the Opportunity Baskets for the March EGA-ANG Luncheon to be on March 27, 2025. This is one of our biggest fundraisers with baskets that are a notch above our regular monthly offerings. These baskets are almost entirely provided by member donations of charts, canvases, stitching tools, beads, threads, kits, and knick-knacks (a pair of beautiful handmade margarita glasses, for instance).

We are in a pretty good position with supplies this year but if you have anything appropriate and in good condition, please consider donating. Our biggest need is for large baskets.

The following are the themes for the proposed primary baskets and the backup baskets.

Primary Basket Themes:



Christmas



Arizona (Could use margarita mix to go with the margarita glasses, maybe prickly pear jam?).



Things with Wings (Birds, Bees, Butterflies, Angels and maybe even Airplanes)
Flora and Fauna.



Castles and Cottages (includes Fantasy and Medieval).



The Color Purple (Any item so long as it coordinates with purple).



The Color Turquoise.

Backup Basket Themes:

- ~ DMC Drawer module to fill with floss/Pearl Cotton/fancy threads.
- ~ Asian.
- ~ Special Occasions (Birthday/Anniversary/Wedding/Baby and children).
- ~ Samplers.
- ~ Theme? What Theme? (Catch all and something for everyone).
- ~ Red, White and Blue.
- ~ All that is Gold.
- ~ The Color Lime (Could use a needlepoint canvas).

During the meeting, I will be asking for volunteers to help sell tickets for the opportunity baskets during the luncheon.

Last month, our "Winter Blues" basket brought in just over \$100 through your contributions. That money goes to subsidize programs, workshops, outreach, and the cost of the March luncheon, so, Thank you, generous members!

BEADING

Sharon Marchant
Shawn Brown

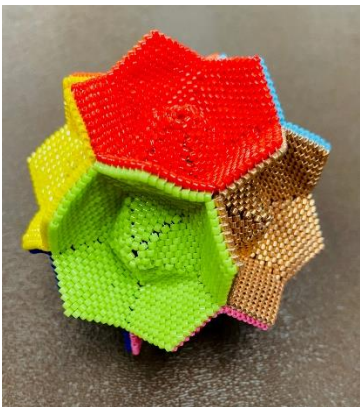
Our next EGA beading group meeting will be on Thursday, February 13th, at St Thomas the Apostle Parish, 515 N Valley View Rd, Tucson, AZ, 85718, from 10 am to 2 pm. As usual, all EGA members are invited to join us, not just the ones who bead. Also, you're welcome to bring lunch or snacks - and food pantry donations are always welcome.

In February we will be launching our 2024 skills building work on introductions to bead stitching techniques starting with an easy right-angle weave (RAW) bracelet design using diagonal cut flattened square beads. Kits will be available with a choice of gemstone beads.

We will also be available for follow-up questions to the Tucson EGA Nancy Cain Beading workshops- "Bouquet" and "Boho Chic" and for members completing Sarah Toussaint's IBW Tribe Dodecahedron, the lovely three-dimensional ball pattern made up of 12 different beaded pentagons.

There are great beading accomplishments with several projects finished or underway with the following photos.

We look forward to our bead stitching in February.
Sharon and Shawn



Bonnie Hadler completed Dodecahedron



Shawn Brown's original Poinsettia pattern design on Dodecahedron project



Pam Brummit happily connecting first set for Dodecahedron



Kathleen Garza's skeleton progress



Alma Gholston's beaded nametag in progress



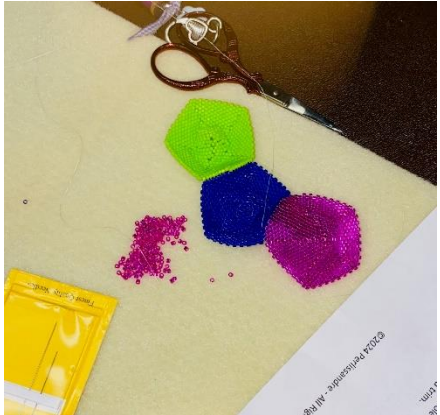
Nancy Howry dressing the Grinch in beaded Xmas Sweater



Michelle Wood's gold snowflake earrings



Connie Lagergren starting next dodecahedron section



Debra Williams connecting dodecahedron section



Beth Avney's very first stitching project - Chapter nametag Peyote amulet bag

Pima County Fair

Volunteers needed for our weekend at the Pima County Fair.

- Tucson EGA will host a booth the weekend of April 26 - 27, 2025.
- Volunteer shifts will be 2-3 hours.
- Volunteers receive free parking and admission to the fair for the day they work.

Come out and enjoy a day of fun and comradery with other EGA members. A sign-up sheet with shifts and hours will be at the February general meeting. Please fill it up! Feel free to email, call, or text Kathleen Garza with any questions.

National Stitch in Public Day

The Embroidery Guild of America established the first Saturday of every February as National Stitch in Public Day. Please join other stitchers to celebrate this day!

- Saturday February 1st, 2025
- 10:30am - 1:30pm
- Two locations
 - Barnes and Noble at Foothills Mall
 - Eckstrom-Columbus Library, 4350 E 22nd St. 85711

Stitchers Luncheon – March 27, 2025

Coupons will be available at the general meeting for those who do not wish to print the flyer.





Hear Ye, Hear Ye! Mary Queen of Scots

the Ghost Queen of Embroidery...

humbly calls Tucson EGA embroiderers, lace makers, jewelry makers, and beaders to show their work at the Pima County Fair. All skill levels from beginners to experts are welcome.

The Ghost Queen of Embroidery is so proud of EGA members' accomplishments she thinks all should participate. She said, EGA art work entered for the duration of the Pima County Fair will be displayed for public viewing at the Old Pueblo Conference and Event Center. All entered pieces receive a ribbon with the esteemed judges awarding blue for first, red for second, or white for an honorable mention. A purple ribbon represents best of show.

Ghost Queen Mary wants you to know she can't insure your work, nor can the Pima County Fair, while it is displayed. That said, she wants to encourage you to take a chance. Trust your artistry and trust the Pima County Fair which has many security precautions in place. Know all will be returned to you with pretty ribbons exactly as the art was submitted, barring unforeseen disasters. Please cite the EGA in your online submission title for extra advertising.

To learn more about submitting your artwork for display I'm told you should visit the Pima County Fair website. I'm not quite sure what that is as I'm a tad old, 482 to be precise, therefore our Chapter Member Diane Smith has offered to guide you through the steps to visit the website for information. She says, "Type **Pima County Fair** in a search engine such as Google or enter pimacountyfair.com. Then, hover over **Fair** on the light blue menu bar. On the drop down menu, click on **Competitive Entries**." She tells me there is an abundance of information to be found when you open the **2025 Home Arts Application** from the list that appears. Please call Diane at 520-389-8273 to beseech assistance in your endeavor.

DATE OF PIMA COUNTY FAIR: April 17 - 27, 2025

LOCATION: 11300 S Houghton Rd, Tucson, AZ 85747

SUBMISSION DEADLINE: March 10, 2025 for the County Fair Home Crafts Competition

FEE: Modest [under \$3 for each submission and varies with different categories.]

Participate and have a grand time or I just may haunt you.

By Order of the Ghost Queen Mary

Trevor Conquergood returns to Tucson to host 2 events
at Down the Block / 5851 E. Speedway Blvd.



Don't miss your chance to meet a true embroidery master
and level up your embroidery and software skills!

**Trevor's
Patches
& Postcards**

Friday, April 11
from 9am-12pm
or 2pm-5pm



- Learn 4 patch making techniques!
- Embroider & take home a patch, custom designed by Trevor
- Discover how to embroider on watercolor paper!
- Learn how to make your own postcard that YOU CAN MAIL!
- Take home all instructions and files after the event!

Cost: \$29 includes machines,
refreshments, and snacks

**FUN, Fabulous
FLORIANI**

Embroidery Recipe Box

Saturday, April 12 from 9am-4pm

- See the latest embroidery techniques!
- Amazing specials on Floriani products & software!
- Special attendee download for designs & project instructions!

Cost: \$99 includes continental breakfast, lunch, candy,
and prizes and everything you need for class!



To register, call 520-721-4000 or stop by any Cathey's location.

Cathey's
SEWING & VACUUM

5701 E. Speedway Blvd.
(520) **721-4000**

5851 E. Speedway Blvd.
(520) **504-5858**

8700 N. Oracle Rd.
(520) **797-7177**

18805 I-19 S. Frontage Rd. B103
(520) **300-5002**

Cathey's Store hours: Monday-Friday 9am - 6pm / Saturday 9am - 4pm / Closed Sunday

catheys.com

NEEDLEWORK • CLASSES • GIFTS • CARDS • TOYS

Happy "New Stitching Year"!

Start the New Year with a *new project* – we've got counted cross-stitch, needlepoint, wool felt applique, embroidery, and more!

STORE HOURS:

Monday through Saturday
10am to 4pm

River Center @ Craycroft
5615 E. River Road, Suite 101
Tucson, Arizona 85750
www.thewestinc.com



Our vision and mission is to improve the quality of life in the Tucson area
and provide grants to qualified Tucson-area non-profit organizations.

520.299.1044

WORKSHOPS

Martha Hirsch

Last chance for Nancy Cain's Bouquet and Boho Chic workshops! Nancy will be bringing extra kits in all colorways to these two workshops, so it is still possible for a few additional students to join the class.

Contact me if you want to attend. I will confirm if a seat is available, and if so, I can meet you at the Sabino Vista Hills Recreation Center on the day of the workshop to accept your registration check before the workshop begins.

February 1, 2025, Saturday – Bouquet with Nancy Cain

February 2, 2025, Sunday – Boho Chic with Nancy Cain

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**March 25 – 26, 2025, Tuesday – Wednesday – Batik to Stitch with Laura Smith**

**The registration deadline for Batik to Stitch has been extended to the March 6<sup>th</sup> General Meeting!**

Join us for two days of fun and imagination. Create your own unique batik fabric and add your own stitches and embellishments. Laura will lead us through the process.

Laura holds the EGA Master Craftsman in Color designation and will bring a depth of knowledge to this exceptional learning opportunity.

As of this writing, I have begun to receive registrations from outside our chapter. Please register soon to ensure your seat in the class!

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## Bouquet Workshop, February 1, 2025, with Nancy Cain



Level: intermediate, Technique: peyote stitch



## Boho Chic workshop, February 2, 2025, with Nancy Cain



Level: intermediate, Technique: Peyote and Netting stitches

## Batik to Stitch, March 25-26, 2025, with Laura Smith

You are invited to join us for *Batik to Stitch*, a two-day class with Laura Smith on Tuesday, March 25 and Wednesday, March 26, 2025. We will meet from 9:00 am to 4:00 pm with a lunch break at St. Thomas the Apostle Catholic Church, 5150 N. Valley View Rd, Tucson, AZ. If you have questions, please contact Martha Hirsch.



Left: Batik sea turtle embellished with couching, seed stitches, and colonial knots. Notice the dark blue lines of the optional crackle background. The turtle tjak is 5 inches long and 4 inches wide.

Batik can create complex, stitchable designs with color layering on fabric. Wax is applied to fabric with a stamp called a tjak (pronounced "chop"). Several choices of images are offered—a turtle (shown), irises, dragonfly, butterfly, gecko, owl, sunflower, daylily, and small geometric design. Students can make two to four pieces. Colors are painted in layers alternating with more wax. An optional crackling technique gives a marbled effect seen as navy-blue lines in the turtle design above. Safety measures are emphasized throughout the class.

Students learn the subtleties of the batik process on Day 1. On Day 2, they create stitch plans for their designs or make more batik images. Each student receives individual guidance for developing design elements and using subtle color concepts to unify the



design. A shared class stash of threads, beads, tulle, and mixed media is available giving the full range of color options for embroidery and embellishment.

### The Kit

Prepared for dyeing (PFD) cotton for up to five images

Paint, brushes and non-latex gloves

Hand stitching threads and needles

Students will share the waxing setups, irons, ironing boards, and a Class Treasure Chest of sequins, beads, and a variety of threads for a wide range of color options.

### Students to Bring

At least a one-inch stack of clean, recycled paper grocery bags, newspaper, or newsprint paper for stamping and ironing out wax. Bring usual stitching supplies, scissors for paper and for embroidery. On the first day, we'll need two fans for the whole class for drying paint. On the second day, we'll need one iron and ironing board for every five students.

### Tjaps (Chops) Available for the Class



Butterfly Tjap



Dragonfly Tjap



Irises Tjap

Other tjaps depict a sea turtle, dragonfly, square geometric design, gecko, owl, lily, and sunflower. Each student may use as many tjaps as they wish to create batik.



## Teacher Bio

Laura Smith is an embroidery innovator, nationally known designer, and teacher. She holds the Master Craftsman in Color from the Embroiderers Guild of America (EGA) and has won the Carolinas Region and National Gold Thread Awards for service in 2021. She has served as chair for the Master Craftsman in Color Program from 2006 – 2018, Chairman of Fiber Forum (2011 – 2015), seven terms as president of her chapter, and has held every chapter office. She is a former Executive Director of an arts center and holds an MBA as well as an undergraduate degree in chemistry -- valuable for understanding paint, wax, and mixed media materials.

Website: [www.Stitch4Fun.com](http://www.Stitch4Fun.com)

Email: [4LauraSmith@gmail.com](mailto:4LauraSmith@gmail.com)

**PLEASE WRITE A SEPARATE CHECK FOR EACH WORKSHOP!**

Mail checks payable to Tucson Chapter EGA

**Nancy Cain workshop ~ Bouquet ~ February 1, 2025**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Chapter members pay \$195. Non-chapter members pay \$225, kit fee included.**

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**Nancy Cain workshop ~ Boho Chic ~ February 2, 2025**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Registration fee: Chapter members pay \$185. Non-chapter members pay \$215, kit fee included.**

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**Laura Smith workshop ~ Batik to Stitch ~ March 25-26, 2025**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

**Chapter members pay \$125. Non-chapter members pay \$180. Kit fee included. Chapter members ONLY:  
May register with a deposit of \$65 with balance of \$60 due January 2<sup>nd</sup>.**

## SAVE the DATE

- January 21, 2025** Evening Stitch-in, The Café at Barnes & Noble, 5:30 to 7:30 pm  
At both the Foothills Mall and at Broadway/Rosemont
- January 31, 2025** Bead stitch-in, Starbucks, SE corner of Swan and Grant,  
1 pm to 4 pm
- February 1 – 28** EGA Embroidery Exhibit at the Columbus-Eckstrom Library
- February 1 – 28** EGA Embroidery Exhibit at the Sahuarita Library
- February 1, 2025** National Stitch in Public Day  
at venues around the Tucson area, TBD
- February 1, 2025** Workshop, Bouquet with Nancy Cain  
St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, O’Leary Hall
- February 2, 2025** Workshop, Boho Chic with Nancy Cain  
St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, O’Leary Hall
- February 6, 2025** Tucson Chapter EGA Meeting  
St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, O’Leary Hall  
10:00 am – 2:00 pm
- February 8, 2025** Saturday Stitch-in at the Martha Cooper Library  
1377 N. Catalina Ave. Tucson, AZ 85712  
10:30 am to 1:00 pm
- February 13, 2025** Tucson Chapter EGA Beading Meeting  
St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Classroom 6  
10:00 am – 2:00 pm
- February 14, 2025** Bead stitch-in, Starbucks, SE corner of Swan and Grant,  
1 pm to 4 pm
- February 18, 2025** Evening Stitch-in, The Café at Barnes & Noble, 5:30 to 7:30 pm  
At both the Foothills Mall and at Broadway/Rosemont
- February 28, 2025** Bead stitch-in, Starbucks, SE corner of Swan and Grant,  
1 pm to 4 pm
- March 6, 2025** Tucson Chapter EGA Meeting  
St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, O’Leary Hall  
10:00 am – 2:00 pm

## **SAVE the DATE, continued**

- March 13, 2025** Tucson Chapter EGA Beading Meeting  
St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Classroom 6  
10:00 am – 2:00 pm
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At both the Foothills Mall and at Broadway/Rosemont
- March 25-26, 2025** Workshop, Batik to Stitch with Laura Smith  
St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, O’Leary Hall  
9:00 am – 4:00 pm
- March 27, 2025** Stitchers Luncheon  
Ventana Canyon Lodge, Tucson  
11:00 am to 2:00 pm
- March 28, 2025** Bead stitch-in, Starbucks, SE corner of Swan and Grant,  
1 pm to 4 pm