

Cactus Needle

The Embroiderers' Guild of America, Inc.

Tucson Chapter www.tucsonega.org

Vol. 44 No. 03

MARCH 2026

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."

ELECTED BOARD

2025-2026

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Tammy Krassy

Workshops:

Maura Robinson

Librarian:

Suzanne Knepper

Newsletter:

Susan Willis

Seminar 2027

Pam Brummit

Publicity:

Beth Mayo

Beading:

Shawn Brown

Sharon Marchant

Historian:

Loni Campbell



Hello Fellow Stitchers and Beaders.

I can't believe February is over. The first half of February was very busy for EGA members.

The first two weeks of February are when Tucson hosts the Gem and Jewelry Show. Several of our beaders attended the show...yours truly included. So many sparkly items to choose from. I hope some of our stitchers were there to find things to add to your pieces.

In addition, EGA hosted Hannah Rosner who taught three classes and did a lecture on Tambour Bead Embroidery. All of us who took the classes had a great time. Hannah is an excellent teacher. And she wants to come back sometime and teach again.

In my quest to have 100 members by the end of the year, we now have 96 members. We are inching our way to 100. A big welcome to all our new members as of this year.

Several of us signed up to do an online Hardanger class with Terri Bay. What a fun class. The class just ended. But we plan to have Terri come and teach here at the end of the year. Be looking in the newsletter for more information on the classes.

I hope all of you will attend the March meeting. We will have a presentation by Gretchen McGill on how to navigate the EGA website to take advantage of all the great classes and lectures National has to offer. We will also be talking about all the opportunities in April to have your work displayed. So, be thinking about what pieces you would like to submit.

See you all at the March meeting.

Bonnie

HOSPITALITY

Doris Fello

Refreshments for the March 5, 2026, meeting will be provided by:



Carmen Evans, Irina Delone, and Heidi Burruel

Doris

MEMBERSHIP

Helen Salkowski



Our Tucson Chapter continues to grow!
Please welcome our newest member, Jean Braman

Remember, guests are always welcome. If you know someone who is interested in Needlework, please feel free to invite them to a meeting.

Helen

PUBLICITY

Beth Mayo



As in recent years, we once again have the opportunity to exhibit our gorgeous stitching at Irina's library, the Sahuarita branch. Be thinking about which pieces you would like to display.

Irina and I will collect your work at the April General Meeting (April 2nd), and they will be hanging in the library from May 2nd until June 27th.

Beth



February's baskets included a Valentine (Pink) themed basket won by Marian Hill and a Needlepoint basket won by Christine Treadwell. Donations for the opportunity basket were \$177. Thank you to our very generous members.

March basket themes will be Shades of Green and Pets & Animals. There will be multiple painted canvas selections, threads including Rainbow Galleries, charts, and fabric in both baskets.

Future fundraisers will include designing and kitting a band sampler featuring our own logo and desert colors. This will be similar to what we did for Janet Hintz's departure gift. We are looking for volunteers who want to work on this design, particularly anyone with experience or interest in learning online charting software for embroidery and needlework. Please see me at the end of the March meeting and/or contact me to be included in this fun project. The plan is to sell it fully kitted up at the National Convention Tucson is hosting.

A heads-up on our third annual Stash Sale usually scheduled for spring. Because of our packed program schedule (lucky us!) we are moving the sale tentatively to Oct and planning to combine it with our fellow stitcher in ANG and a potluck. So, plan your "spring cleaning" for late summer and the first joint stash sale! We will keep you posted as it develops.

Tammy

FEBRUARY PROGRAM – THANKS

Thanks to Shawn Brown and Maura Robinson for arranging our February program by Hannah Rosner. Hannah covered the history of Tambour and examples of how it is done. The highlight (IMO) was the stunning examples of historical dresses. Thanks Shawn, Maura and Hannah!

MARCH PROGRAM

Uncovering the Treasures of EGA's Website - Classes and Projects, and Blogs, Oh My!



Do you know what a GCC or a Lightning Round is? Or the difference between a Virtual Class and an Online Studio Class? Are you familiar with EGA's forums, special interest groups and free projects?

Our membership in EGA offers us a wealth of resources to expand our stitching knowledge and skills, but navigating the website can be challenging. At our March meeting, Gretchen McGill will be sharing tips and techniques to help you take advantage of the many opportunities offered on the EGA website. No supplies or RSVP needed.

APRIL PROGRAM

Beaded Medallions using Brick Stitch - Sharon Marchant & Shawn Brown



EGA recently added a new series of free projects under the heading “Outside the Hoop.” The series focuses on entry-level projects that utilize techniques familiar to stitchers, but without a hoop. The first project in this new EGA series is the Colorful Beaded Medallions designed by Lisa Yang, author of “Wire Wrap Jewelry Making for Beginners.”

Our beading group leaders, Shawn and Sharon, will be teaching this project for our April program. This project uses a beginner friendly beading technique, Brick Stitch, to create round medallions, perfect for jewelry. A quick project for both experienced and first-time beaders. Please RSVP if you plan to participate in this program. Sharon and Shawn want to have enough supplies for all who attend. A sign-up sheet will be at the March meeting. You can also RSVP to Gretchen at casademcgill@gmail.com (please sign up only once -at the meeting or via email).

MAY PROGRAM

Blackwork - Cindy Miranti and Beth Mayo



Our June 2025 Survey indicated that over 50% of respondents were interested in learning Blackwork. The April Program will be this lovely Blackwork Bookmark (an EGA Petite Project). Cindy and Beth will be teaching basic Blackwork skills, giving participants a small taste of this historic technique. Part of their presentation will cover the wonderful history of Blackwork (think of all the wonderful portraits of Queen Elizabeth the First and Sir Francis Drake). Beth and Cindy are planning a future workshop to teach more blackwork skills using one of EGA's Free Projects, the Blackwork Honeycomb Needlebook. Here's a sneak peak of their future plans:



Gretchen

LIBRARY

Suzanne Knepper

Please contact me to arrange to borrow 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

<https://psrega.org>

egausa.org

facebook.com

(**SAL**)

us up

stitchingjules.com

[Instagram.com](https://www.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**

group. Region now has a Facebook page, so, look 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





Hannah Rosner, fabulous designer and teacher, taught these three projects to our members.

3D Goldwork and Beadwork
Orchid Brooch/Pendant



Royal Ruffel Ribbon Bracelet



Tambour Beaded Iris Brooch/Pendant

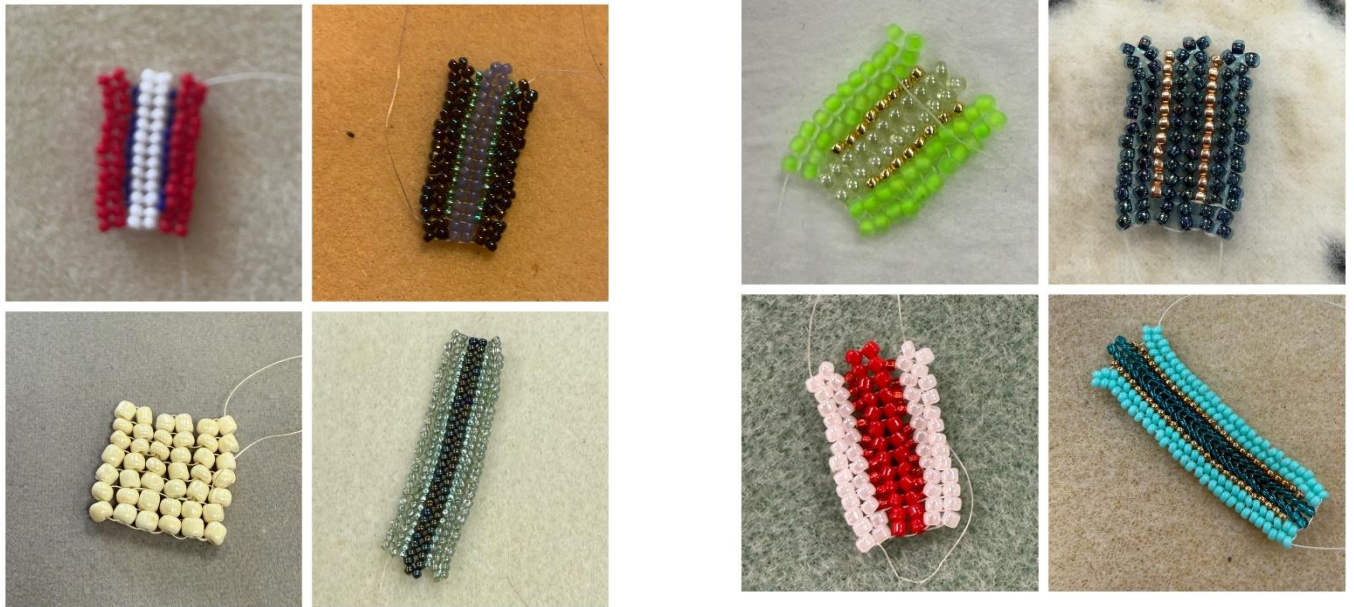


BEADING

Sharon Marchant

At our February beading meeting, we started a 3-month process of learning all about herringbone stitch. Herringbone stitch originated in the 1800s through the Ndebele of South Africa. The stitch starts with a ladder stitch, followed by columns of beads, creating a finished look resembling a knit pattern. The Stitch can be flat, tubular, or sculptural. Our 3-month series is an introduction to all three stitch variations. Our February meeting focused on a flat herringbone bracelet, March will focus on a tubular herringbone necklace, and April will focus on a small sculptural vessel. If you are interested in doing the sculptural project in April, we strongly recommend you complete at least one of the 2 introductory sessions first to familiarize yourself to the stitch.

We had a great turnout of stitchers at our February meeting, and everyone caught onto the flat herringbone stitch and the bracelet pattern. Some even managed to complete their bracelets quickly - Congratulations! Check out all the bracelet progress photos!



In process flat herringbone work from
Connie Lagergren, Kathleen Garza, Sandra
DeBolt, and Michelle Woods

More flat herringbone beadwork by
Debra Williams, Kathleen Magee, Marian
Hill, and Bonnie Heidler



Finished embellished flat herringbone bracelets by Shawn Brown, Rachel Wisdom, and Angela Bertolino

At our March meeting, we will add the tubular technique to our herringbone stitch lessons, and we will be doing Shawn Brown’s version of a necklace that looks like Potomac Beads’ Paintbrush necklace. Shawn’s version has longer herringbone sections between the diamond shaped sections and a completely different method of making the necklace than Potomac Beads’ Paintbrush necklace uses. Because the necklaces are so different in construction, please note that the Paintbrush necklace is only shown so that you can see what it looks like in a multi-color version.

The final length should fit comfortably over your head as this design is completed in the round and does not include a clasp (Shawn’s necklace is 31” long and has 18 diamond shapes



Shawn Brown’s tubular herringbone necklace – Our project for the March Beading Meeting



Potomac Beads’ Paintbrush Necklace shows a multi-colored variation of a tubular herringbone necklace

Supplies for Shawn's tubular herringbone necklace

40 grams of size 8 seed beads in the main color

1 gram per diamond shape of size 8 seed beads (you can do as many or as few color variations as you like) (18 total grams to match the length of Shawn's necklace)

Beading needle and thread of choice (Fireline will likely be the most durable)

Bead mat, light, and magnification, as needed

Please note that we mistakenly told you that the main color bead was size 11 at the beading meeting – they are size 8. Also note that if you have a specific colorway in mind, you will want to buy your beads before the meeting. Sharon will be bringing plenty of size 8 beads to the meeting for purchase, but they might not be in a color you were looking for. Good sources for size 8 beads online include Fire Mountain Gems, Auntie's Beads, and Shipwreck Beads. The brand of size 8 beads used does not matter, however, because of shape variations between brands, you would do best to make sure that you use all the same brand for the whole necklace.

Here is the link to basic stitch instructions for tubular herringbone (please print page 1&2 before meeting – we won't be doing the 6-column version shown on page 3 so it isn't needed):

<file:///C:/Users/shawn/Dropbox/Downloads/Herringbone-weave-tubular-1.pdf>

Our next EGA beading group meeting is on Thursday, March 12th from 10 am to 2 pm at St Thomas the Apostle Parish, 515 N Valley View Rd, Tucson, AZ, 85718. As usual, all EGA members are invited to join us, not just the ones who bead. **Please don't forget to bring your food pantry donations.**

Finally, here is a little teaser for our April structural herringbone project. Remember, if you want to make this cute little 3-dimensional beaded vessel, it is best that you try at least one of the projects from February or March before the April meeting.



Bitsy the Teeny Tiny Vessel by River Rose

NEW VIRTUAL EDUCATION COURSE: Online zoom in real time gold work embroidery course.



Registration Dates: Jan. 12, 2026, 9 a.m. Eastern to March 13, 2026, 9 a.m. Eastern

Class Dates: April 25 and 26, 2026

This Virtual Education Course will take place on Zoom on Saturday, April 25 and Sunday, April 26, 2026. Both days start at 11:30 a.m. Eastern and end at 6:30 p.m. Eastern (8:30-3:30 AZ)

Skill Level: Intermediate

Cost: Class registration is \$90 plus the kit fee of \$45 plus postage, which includes hard-copy instructions. Postage is \$10 for the US. \$145 total. There will be no refunds for cancellations.

NEW ONLINE COURSE: Video presentations but not live. Can watch anytime.



Students will learn the embroidery stitches that enhance the front of this linen-covered box. Also included are the essential instructions for making the box, including how to stitch the box together and even an optional decorative edge. [Learn more.](#)

Registration: February 4 - March 4, 2026

Class schedule: May 6 - June 3, 2026

LIGHTENING ROUNDS: Register by end of February!



This Jacobean peacock has a large variety of interesting combinations of stitches. The design is based on a 100-year-old bed hanging by Rachel Kay Shuttleworth for her Elizabethan bed at Gawthorpe Hall in Lancashire, England.

Registration dates: March 4 to April 1, 2026

Class schedule: October 7-15, 2026

<https://egausa.org/courses/gawthorpepeacock/>



These delicate petit point slippers are designed to hold a thimble and a pin cushion. The slippers are just the right size to learn the art of petit point on silk gauze. The design is inspired by Victorian era stitching. The kit provides each student with the supplies needed for a perfect finish.

Registration dates: March 4 to April 1, 2026

Class schedule: June 3-17, 2026

<https://egausa.org/courses/victorianslippers/>

LIGHTENING ROUNDS: Last date to Register **is February 28!**

New courses are coming in March

REMINDER: We will do the dragon surface embroidery project (Uncommon Stitches) as a GCC in Fall 2026. Registration will open in April.



[Keeping in Shape with Gwen Nelson](#), [Mark and Paint on Canvas and Fabric with Laura Smith](#), [Perfectly Counted Crosses with Carolyn Standing Webb](#), [Pulled Stitches Clover with Jane Ellen Balzuweit](#) and [Uncommon Stitches with Melinda Sherbring](#).

GCC UPDATES

Registration for the COSMOS-needle painting GCC has been submitted to EGA. The packets are expected to arrive by the April Chapter Meeting. We can decide if we want to work together on the project.

We are offering another CGG for Fall - UNCOMMON Stitches - **Sign up will begin at the March meeting** and continue through September. We will collect \$50 for the stitch guide when you register.



Do you like designs with dragons? Are you inspired by embroidered book covers of the late 16th and early 17th centuries? Do you collect unusual stitches -- ones uncommon in modern embroidery?

Project: Framed picture or as the cover for a book-like box

Technique: Surface embroidery

Size: Embroidery is 4.25" wide by 6.75" tall on 8" x 12" linen

Color: Use the colors listed or choose their own color palette

Supplies: A variety of metallic passing threads and silk or cotton threads on a higher count pale linen

Skill Level: Intermediate

Prerequisites: Basic surface stitching skills are recommended and the ability to read a stitch diagram. Interest in 16th c. embroidery or dragons or both might help.

Time: 6 lessons over 6 – 8 months

Text: \$50 full-color, spiral-bound book. 50 pages

Approximate Cost of Supplies: \$40 for cotton or \$100 for silk.

Cindy

OUTREACH **Kathleen Garza**

2nd Saturday: Saturday get together meets from 10:00am to 2:00pm at public libraries. Its timing, the weekend after the meeting, provides a great opportunity for those who can't make the general meeting to catch up on chapter activities with those who have attended the meeting.

3rd Tuesday: This evening gathering meets from 5:30pm to 7:30pm and is held at two Barnes & Noble locations: Broadway and Rosemont and Foothills Mall. A great opportunity for all members (especially those who work or have other daytime commitments) to come out for some social stitching time.

Every Friday: This afternoon gathering meets from 1:00pm – 4:00 pm and is held at the Starbucks at 4702 E Grant Road, the Southeast corner of Grant and Swan. Join us for a social afternoon of stitching fun. All beading and needleworkers are welcome.

Pima County Fair 2026

Volunteers

The Pima County Fair is our biggest Outreach event each year. It is great fun to talk to the public and share our passion for Needlework. As always, our booth will have small kits to use for teaching and give-a-way. Reminder, all volunteers receive a **free** ticket to the fair and **free** parking.

We still need volunteers to cover the shifts at the Fair. We really need help on **Sunday April 19th** and **Sunday April 26th** on the afternoon shifts. But we can use help on most other shifts.

April 18 & 19 and April 25 & 26.

Shifts are from 10:30am - 2pm and 1:30pm - 5:30pm

Contact me if you can volunteer katg22@comcast.net

Enter Your Work at the Fair

Everyone should have received an email with the information about applying to enter items for exhibition at the Fair.

To enter items:

Go to the Pima County Fair web page pimacountyfair.com. Then, hover over Fair on the brown menu bar at the top of the page. On the drop down menu, click on Competitive Entries. Open the 2026 Home Arts Application or 2026 Fine Arts Application from the list.

From this website you can fill in the submission forms. Keep in mind there is a modest fee (\$2-4) for entry if you have questions, please contact Cindy Miranti ckmianti@gmail.com

Entries for the fair are due March 20th

Help Make Kits for the Fair

Each year at the Fair we provide small cross stitch, needle point and canvas kits to use for teaching. We have asked for extra time in our meeting rooms to gather to assemble these kits in March and April. We may finish everything in March, but it's good to know we have the option for April. Please think about staying around to help assemble these popular kits.

General Meetings extended to 3:00 in O'Leary Hall
Beading Meetings extended to 4:00 in Classroom 6

Maker Fair at Sahuarita Library

Thank you to our volunteers who went out to this event. This community event is a student showcase and interactive event for all ages. The focus is on STEAM (the A is for arts) based learning. The volunteers said that it was lots of fun, they interacted with many kids and their parents and gave away a good number of beginner kits.

St. Thomas the Apostle Carnivale - Sunday February 1st

Volunteers at this event had a great time interacting with members of the Parish. Talking not just about our activities, but all the social programs at the church. We were greatly appreciated. Thank you to everyone who volunteered.

National Stitch in Public Day - February 7th, 2026

This was a busy weekend, so we didn't have a lot of people stitching with us. The Mercado St Augustin was a lovely venue for the stitchers who came out.



TUCSON EGA NEWSLETTER SUPPORTERS

NEEDLEWORK • CLASSES • GIFTS • CARDS • TOYS



March Stitch-Its Angels Trunk Show

Have you been admiring the Stitch-Its Angels but can't decide which one you want? Then this Trunk Show is for you! We will have a fantastic assortment of angels from which to choose. All Trunk Show Angels are 20% off March 2 through March 31.

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.

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(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

SAVE THE DATE

March-through April 2026

- March 5 Tucson Chapter EGA Meeting
St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, O'Leary Hall
10:00 am – 2:00 pm
- March 6 Bead & Needlework stitch-in, Starbucks
SE corner of Swan and Grant
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
- March 12 Tucson Chapter EGA Beading Meeting
St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Classroom 6
10:00 am – 2:00 pm
- March 13 Bead & Needlework stitch-in, Starbucks
SE corner of Swan and Grant
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
- March 14 Saturday stitch-in at Martha Cooper Library
1377 N. Catalina Ave., Tucson, AZ 85712
10:00 am to 2:00 pm
- March 17 Evening stitch-in, The Café at Barnes & Noble
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm
At both Foothills Mall and
Broadway/Rosemont
- March 20 Bead & Needlework stitch-in, Starbucks
SE corner of Swan and Grant
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
- March 27 Bead & Needlework stitch-in, Starbucks
SE corner of Swan and Grant
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm

SAVE THE DATE

March-through April 2026

- April 2 Tucson Chapter EGA Meeting
St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, O'Leary Hall
10:00 am – 2:00 pm
- April 3 Bead & Needlework stitch-in, Starbucks
SE corner of Swan and Grant
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
- April 9 Tucson Chapter EGA Beading Meeting
St. Thomas the Apostle Parish, Classroom 6
10:00 am – 2:00 pm
- April 10 Bead & Needlework stitch-in, Starbucks
SE corner of Swan and Grant
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
- April 11 Saturday stitch-in at Martha Cooper Library
1377 N. Catalina Ave., Tucson, AZ 85712
10:00 am to 2:00 pm
- April 17 Bead & Needlework stitch-in, Starbucks
SE corner of Swan and Grant
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm
- April 21 Evening stitch-in, The Café at Barnes & Noble
5:30 pm – 7:30 pm
At both Foothills Mall and
Broadway/Rosemont
- April 24 Bead & Needlework stitch-in, Starbucks
SE corner of Swan and Grant
1:00 pm to 4:00 pm