

The Stitchers' Voice

Est. 2009

Official Newsletter of The Stitchers' Village

VOL. 1 No. 2

MARCH, 2009

NEW SHOPS OPEN

Over the past month there has been lots of activity around The Village Green.

The Stitchers' Village welcomes the following shops which are now Open and ready to help you with your needlework requirements.

- Shop 1 ABC Stitch Therapy
- Shop 2 Hanging By A Thread
- Shop 4 Stitching Bits and Bobs
- Shop 5 Mani Di Donna
- Shop 6 3 Stitches
- Shop 7 Violarium
- Shop 8 Cecilia's Samplers
- Shop 9 Picture This Plus
- Shop 10 Shakespeare's Peddler
- Shop 12 Inspired Needle
- Shop 13 Needlepoint Boutique
- Shop 15 Laurel's Stitchery
- Shop 16 Fobbles
- Shop 17 Celtic Cornucopia
- Shop 19 Needle In A Haystack
- Shop 21 Bush Mountain Stitchery
- Shop 23 Stitches N Things
- Shop 26 Acorns & Threads
- Shop 29 Stitcher's Workshop
- Shop 33 Needlepoint Cottage
- Shop 35 Wasatch needlecraft
- Shop 38 Cottage Lane

And there are more shops due to open over the next month ...

- Shop 30 FibersAndThreads.com
- Shop 11 Nordic Needle
- Shop 14 Traditional Stitches
- Shop 22 Always In Stitches
- Shop 27 Cross Stitch Treasures
- Shop 31 Dyeing To Stitch

and Bush Mountain Framing which will be moving into the building located next to the 'Stitchers' Voice' office.

CLASSES GALORE!

Did you know that you can take classes here in The Stitchers' Village?

It's always exciting when a designer comes to town to teach class! But more often than not the designer doesn't come to your town, and with the world economy as it is, it is often not feasible to attend the class if it means travelling far from home.

Here in The Stitchers' Village you can attend virtual classes in the red brick Village School and be part of the on-line forum 'classrooms' set up especially for each class in The Tea Shoppe.

You can interact with your class teacher and fellow classmates - just like you would in a 'real class' situation. The only difference is that you are doing this in the comfort and safety of your own home, for a fraction of the cost of attending a 'real class'.

There are three different types of classes available at the Village School.

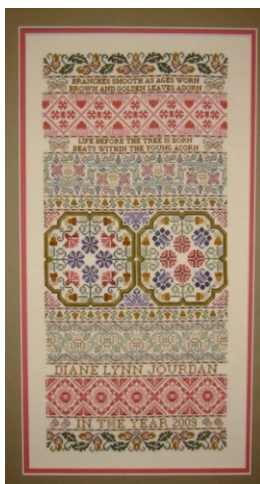
There are classes available to take at any time, classes which run over several weeks at specific times of the year, and video classes will be available in the not too distant future.

The Village Shops have all the class requirement lists, and can help you source all the materials needed to complete the class you have chosen to participate in.

If you haven't already visited the Village School pop in soon to see the current list of classes.

'Young Acorns'
By Diane Jourdan of
Sampler Cove

*A class over six weeks
commencing
March 16, 2009*



HOW TO WEIGHT FRACTIONAL STITCHES

by Jen Funk Weber

Fellow stitcher, Lisa, asked for advice on how to choose which "half stitch" gets the quarter stitch and which gets the three-quarter stitch when that distinction is not provided in a pattern.

This is something we see in cross stitch, rather than needlepoint, since needlepoint is generally stitched over a single intersection of canvas threads. That's like trying to stitch a fractional stitch when you're stitching over 1 on linen. It can't be done.

I love fractional stitches when stitching over 2 on linen or evenweave. They can create smoother curves and more detail.

When stitching over 2 threads, there is a natural open-hole center for the quarter-stitches to go through.

I like fractional stitches slightly less when stitching on aida because I have to poke my blunt-tipped needle through the center block. That's not easy.

Worst of all, it can be hard to hit the precise center, which drives this perfectionist batty. But they still create smoother curves and more detail, which in the end, outweighs the nuisance of poking through centers and imperfect centers . . . for me.

What if you are stitching over 1, or stitching on canvas?

You have to pick one of the colors to stitch. Which one do you pick?

Similarly, fractional stitches are often along borders which are outlined. The outlines on the chart invariably obscure the itty-bitty symbols that tell you which color is the quarter stitch and which is the three-quarter stitch. How do you decide which one gets the emphasis, the three-quarter stitch?

In both cases, the best answer is usually to pick the color of the foreground object. For instance, say you're stitching a tree against a blue-sky background. The tree would get the three-quarter stitch, or the whole stitch, if stitching on canvas. The tree is the foreground object; the sky is the background.

Say you're stitching a paddle being pulled

through the water alongside a canoe. From your perspective (the viewer perspective), the paddle is in front of the canoe and there's water in front of the paddle, behind the paddle, and around the canoe.

In a fractional-stitch competition between the paddle and the canoe, the paddle wins. The paddle is in front of the canoe; it is the foreground object. This is the stitch that gets the emphasis (three-quarter stitch) or the color that gets stitched on canvas.

In a competition between the water and the paddle, the water is the winner if you're showing the water in front of the paddle, but the paddle wins if you're showing the water behind the paddle, between the paddle and the canoe.

It's a matter of looking at the two-dimensional picture and thinking of it in terms of three dimensions. The object nearer the viewer (you) gets the stitch.

Sometimes, the fractional stitches are in the same plane. In this case, I aim for consistency. Say you're stitching a waterfall depicted by squiggly vertical lines of different silver/grey/blue colors. I might decide that the left-hand color always wins, getting the three-quarters or whole stitch.

This consistency defines the vertical lines which I think conveys the image of falling water. In real life, however, waterfalls aren't that tidy. You could certainly argue that the water splashes all around and isn't orderly, thus making the case for random selection of dominant stitches. By all means, try it.

There are bound to be close calls and exceptions to the rule. The final word on the matter is, as always: *Do you like it?*

If you are interested in purchasing advertising space in **The Village Voice newsletter** please email us on **advertTSV@stitchersvillage.com** and we will be happy to forward a copy of our Rate Card and Submission guidelines for your consideration.

FEBRUARY COMPETITION WINNER!

Congratulations go to
Laura McKeown
who correctly answered all
the crossword clues.

**Laura wins a complete set
of Dinky-Dyes silks valued at \$656!**

And thank you to everyone who entered.

BUSHFIRE APPEAL

Many of you will have heard or read about the devastating bush fires that engulfed towns, destroyed homes and livelihoods and killed over 200 people in Victoria, Australia early in February, 2009.

Janie Hubble, one of the owners of The Stitchers' Village, and her friend Ros Cumming have designed 'Bushfire Kitty' to help raise funds for those people affected by the bushfires on what is now referred to as Black Saturday - 7th February, 2009.

Some of you will already know and love Janie's Crazy Kitties - those quick little stitch designs that can be used on scissor fobs, little boxtops, needlecases ... the list goes on and on. They are readily available for purchase from needlework establishments all around the world.

'Bushfire Kitty' however is a bit different. He is only available through a donation of US\$3.50, with nett proceeds being given to the Australian Red Cross Bushfire Appeal.

Bushfire Kitty, with his singed whiskers and his bright yellow firefighter's pants will serve to remind stitchers everywhere of the terrible plight faced by so many people on that fateful weekend, and acknowledges the efforts of the brave men and women who took part in helping to fight the fires.

Bushfire Kitty comes as a pdf file, and includes the cross-stitch charts for both the kitty and the words '07.02.09 Black Saturday' and suggested floss colours. Finishing instructions are not included as there are so many ways you could choose to use this design.

MARCH COMPETITION

The competition for this month requires an eagle eye ...

The question is:

**How many chimney stacks are there
in The Village?**

You will need to go to the Home page, and carefully count all the chimney stacks, then email your answer to Janie on editorTSV@stitchersvillage.com by end of day on March 30, 2009.

Once again, Jo from Dinky-Dyes is supplying the prize of a **complete set of Dinky-Dyes silks worth \$656!** Thank you Jo!

If you would like to make a donation, and receive a 'Bushfire Kitty' chart please copy the following address, paste it into your web browser and follow the prompts.

http://thecatwhiskers.net.au/bushfire_appeal.html



AND JUST IN CASE YOU WERE WONDERING ...

Here are the answers to February's crossword puzzle:

Down

1. railroad, 2. EGA, 4. drool, 6. needlepoint
7. sampler, 8. thimble, 10. orts, 11. smyrna

Across

1. royal, 3. silk thread, 5. hardanger, 9. aida
10. overdyed, 12. embroidery, 13. rice,
14. laying tool, 15. ANG