

The Stitchers Voice

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Official Newsletter of The Stitchers' Village

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FOCUS ON ... 3 Stitches in Houston, Texas, USA

Since 3 Stitches opened on June 1st, 1994 it has grown into a one stop shop for the local (and online) stitching community. Located in Spring, which is in the North West corner of Houston, one can find a huge selection of designs in every genre, fabric, threads and everything you'll need to stitch them.



As Pam points out, "If we have the book, we have all the parts to create a project"

The atmosphere is warm and friendly, with qualified and very knowledgeable 'stitching aides' there to attend to the customers every need. 3 Stitches employ experts in various stitching genres, and hosts regular classes in everything from cross stitch, hardanger and silk ribbon embroidery to finishing and framing, with local and visiting designers.

Elizabeth Talledo from Dames of the Needle, a certified teacher at national level for ANG and EGA will be back at 3 Stitches on **October 3rd** to teach another of her lovely designs.



Pam organizes many special events to tempt her customers through the year and one she feels is very important is her Summer Camp for school aged children where she teaches them the art of stitching. This Summer Camp has proved very popular and successful over the years with two of Pam's students winning First Prize in the Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo needlework section. These children won several thousand dollars towards their college fund and are up and coming young stitchers who now love needlework.



Each year 3 Stitches hosts a Mystery themed Get-A-Way which is always very popular and usually booked out well in advance. This year's theme was Bees and the attendees received many stitching and non-

stitching gifts relating to bees. Next year's retreat begins on **April 9, 2010** and guests will learn the theme of the retreat at 7pm that evening.

To find out more about 3 Stitches, and to visit them on-line go to The Stitchers Village home page and click on the top right hand bank of shops – 3 Stitches is Shop 6.

3 Stitches is our competition host for August ... see Page 4 for all the details.

LITTLE STITCHES by Jen Funk-Weber

Sometimes little things mean a lot: someone with a heaping cart of groceries lets you cut in front with your gallon of milk; a raised eyebrow lets you know your friend is just teasing; your husband takes the smaller slice of cake because he knows it's your favorite.

When it comes to needlework, sometimes little stitches mean a lot, too.

Earlier this year, I defended the much maligned backstitch because although it's a humble little stitch, it can have a significant impact on a design. Likewise, a single tiny straight stitch, or seed stitch, carefully placed can add sparkle to a design.

Take a look at these two images of a cross stitched wolf from the Funk & Weber Designs Portraits of the Wild Life pattern. Can you see a difference?

I can. I like the wolf on the right. He looks brighter and more alive to me. The difference? Two itty-bitty white stitches on the pupils. That's it! Those are the "sparkles" in the wolf's eyes.

When light shines on real eyes, they sparkle. We may not be consciously aware of it, but it makes a difference. Artists are taught to add similar marks to paintings and drawings, and they are just as effective in needlework.

In The Lord of the Rings movie, one way Galadriel is set off from the other elves is by the light that reflects in her eyes. Designers built a special light made of Christmas lights rather than a single bulb to use for her close-up shots. The effect is a bunch of shimmering sparkles in her eyes. She appears brighter, or lighter, than the other elves.

Now, did I notice that the light in her eyes was different when I watched the movie? Nope. But I did get the impression that she was special, light and ethereal.

It's a cinch to make two itty-bitty white stitches on a pupil, but getting them to look just right can be a trick. If there are two eyes (a straight on image rather than a profile), the sparkles need to coordinate, to appear as though they



come from a single light source. And more than that, they need to be the right size, and placed well. (On larger projects, a French knot or cross stitch might work better.)

How, exactly, do you do make them the right size and place them well? Stitch and rip until you get a look you like. Sorry. That's the best I can offer. Trust me; you'll know when you've got something that works.

This is something you can add whether a design calls for it or not. Give it a shot. And when you're through with that, why not call your mother, daughter, or friend to just say hi. Sometimes little things mean a lot.

SPEND HALLOWEEN WITH US!

MORE DETAILS IN THE SEPTEMBER NEWSLETTER

What's New In The World of Needlework!

or ... A Little Retail Therapy is Always Good For The Soul!



NEW! NEW! NEW!

SAILING SHIPS SAMPLER By Rosewood Manor

This design was inspired by the birth of Karen Kluba's second grandson. His middle name "Christopher," reminded her of Christopher Columbus and sailing ships. His birth date is on the small sail boat near his name and his parents initials are under the largest ship; with the grandparents and great-grandparents initials scattered among the ships.

This sampler could be stitched as a family sampler; with the family name in place of the child's name and then the initials of family members scattered though the ships. To add even more initials, they can be stitched over 1 thread. The small sail boat where the birth date is stitched can be replaced with the year the piece was stitched.

This six page chart with large fold-out graph of the ships also includes 5 "Bonus Charts" that are fun to stitch and lots of "Be Creative!" ideas. It uses Picture This Plus fabric and Week's Dye Works floss to give it an antique look.

Ask for Rosewood Manor designs at your local needlework shop.

100% SILK PERLE From Dinky-Dyes

New from Dinky-Dyes!

A range of 100% silk perle in three different weights in 26 colors, mainly solids. These stunning perle threads have a beautiful shine and are suitable for all those stitching and needlepoint projects where perle thread is needed.



CECILIA'S FALL STITCHING FESTIVAL

Fall Into Winter ~ November 5-8, 2009
Join us in Branson, Missouri!

This year's theme is "Fall Into Winter" featuring projects covering Fall, Christmas, and snow themes.

Back by popular demand will be "all projects are finishables!" meaning that once your stitching is done, there will be very little finishing involved.

Your cost of \$300.00 includes 3 nights lodging, all meals, projects, and lots of fun and fellowship with a few goodies and surprises thrown in along the way.

A deposit of \$100.00 must be received by September 1st to hold your spot - space is limited this year so don't wait!!

Payments of \$100.00 each are due October 1st and November 1st. Pay in full by September 1st and receive a free \$25.00 gift card to Cecilia's to be used that weekend!!

Sign up deadline is September 1st, 2009. Deposits are non-refundable after the deadline.

For more details please go to Cecilia's Samplers shop in The Village and follow the links.

JULY COMPETITION WINNER!

Congratulations go to

CAROL RIDYARD

who correctly solved the Word Search Sentence ...

'Top stores with great products can be found at The Stitchers Village'

Carol wins The Cat's Whiskers Design Studio charts and Dinky-Dyes silks valued at over \$300.

Well done Carol
and thank you to everyone who entered.

AUGUST 2009 COMPETITION

3 Stitches from Houston, Texas is sponsoring this month's competition.

For a chance to win a **\$100 Gift Certificate** from **3 Stitches**, answer this simple question in 25 words or less ...

What item would you most like to have from the 3 Stitches website and why?

Email your answer to Janie on **editorTSV@stitchersvillage.com** by end of day on Sunday 30th August, 2009.



Would you like to share your love of stitching and photos of your work with us here at The Stitchers Voice? We have two new projects in the works at the moment and we hope you would like to be part of them.

The Stitchers Voice is planning to publish twice a month, with the mid-month version dedicated to members who would like to share their love of stitching. Email your articles, and supporting photos to Janie at editorTSV@stitchersvillage.com. We'd love to hear from you.

You might have noticed the bulldozer and trucks in the Village. We are building a new Members Gallery especially for members to show off their stitching. This building should be ready in a few weeks time and we will be letting everyone know when it's ready. You will be able to upload photos of your projects to share with other members and visitors to the site.