

# Swan Gazette

A Newsletter for the Swan Sampler Guild  
Oct/Nov/Dec 2008

[www.swansamplerguild.org](http://www.swansamplerguild.org)



## Swan Calendar 2008

**October 16-18 Thursday-Saturday** – Wendy White and Marcia Brown workshop. Some projects available to “Away Swans”. Bring small “projects in process” or finished to the Lecture on Thursday the 16<sup>th</sup>, 7:00PM. Marcia will share ideas on finishing. Meetings will be held at the Village III Clubhouse.

**November 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday** – Threads Through Time taught by Carolyn Webb. This is the last offering for any of the pieces. Meet at the home of Sandra Ball 7:00PM.

**January 3<sup>rd</sup> Saturday** – Ute’s Hearts. Meet at the Salt Lake County Complex 7:00PM.

**February 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday** – Presentation on Framing by Don Gottfredson. Meet at the Salt Lake County Complex 7:00PM.

## Membership

We will be updating our Yahoo membership list. If you have not renewed, you will be dropped from the list and no longer receive announcements or be able to participate in projects. You can still renew. Cost is \$25. Membership runs from July 2008 through July 2009 and we have many wonderful projects and educational opportunities in store for our membership. Join us for another great year and continue to help us spread the word and work of Samplers.

## From the President

Everyone is back into the fall routine by now. Vacations over, time for stitching, right? I found that I didn’t have as much time to stitch this summer as I had planned, but I’m moving ahead now. We thought of those of you who are struggling with the hurricanes and other weather related problems. I had a small leak in my roof that dripped on some of my stitching and linen and required cleaning. I counted my blessings, however, as I worried about my few pieces. I could only imagine what it is like for those who have lost homes and possessions that were ruined during these terrible hurricanes and floods.

As the government struggles with the economy and many of you struggle with your own financial challenges, our thoughts go to you and hope you find pleasure in the “free” things of life. It truly is time to crunch through the fall leaves, enjoy the smells, and gather family and friends together through the holidays!

As the board looks to next year, we’re very excited about several events. Some of these are local, and some will be opportunities for “away” Swans. Diane Clements will be teaching a class in March. We are also planning a stitching retreat with Amy Mitten in Cedar City, Utah. She will be designing a piece especially for Swans and it will be available to all, even if you can’t come. Look for more information about these events in the newsletter. We are working to update our website and have a Swan member who has generously offered to design our site. We will be able link to Paypal for people who would like to pay for items that way. We hope to have it done by the end of the year. Thank you for your patience!

Happy Stitching!  
Sandra Ball

**Ellen Chester**  
***With My Needle***  
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*Tell us about your family.*

Tom and I have been married nearly 38 years. We met on a blind-date while freshman at The Florida State University in Tallahassee. We moved to Cincinnati 32 years ago after Tom finished graduate school. Tom worked for 31 years as a research chemist with Procter and Gamble. He took an early retirement package last October. He is still staying busy as an adjunct research professor at the University of Cincinnati and helping me with my design business.



Our daughter, Carolyn, is married and living in Chicago. Carolyn is a graphic designer, and her husband, Greg, is an art director. In January, they had their first child, Haiden, who is the "apple of our eyes". Our son, Stephen, and his wife, Michelle, live in Ft. Wayne, Indian. Stephen is a senior programmer analyst at Central Insurance Company in Van Wert, Ohio, and Michelle

works as an investment sales assistant with JPMorgan.

*When did you start stitching/embroidering?*

I wish I had a wonderful story about how I learned to stitch at my mother's knee, but unfortunately I don't. I did a little needlepoint project in junior high. It was the kind where you simply filled in the background. I still remember the piece—it was a cat's face, and the background was light blue. My sister and I both did the same piece.

I didn't stitch any more until I was married. After graduating from college, Tom and I moved to Charleston, South Carolina. He worked there as a chemist and I as a teacher. We moved there over the summer, so I needed to find something to occupy my time before school started in the fall. So, I bought a crewel kit. I must have had "big eyes"—the project I picked was 22 by 26 inches...probably not the average starter project.

Several years later, I discovered cross-stitch—the stamped kind. I stitched several samplers and squares for a quilt. Then I discovered counted cross

stitch (on aida), and really liked the freedom it provided to make design and color changes. Then came the great "awakening" when I discovered linen. My first experience was a love-hate relationship. I persisted, and today would never use anything else.

*When did you start designing?*

Although Tom had been encouraging me to try my hand at designing, it was Edna Medlin (*Threads of Gold*) who convinced me that I should really do this. In May, 1999, we were part of a small group on a needlework trip to Germany, the Netherlands, and England. After a long conversation on a train to Amsterdam, Edna convinced me to jump right in. That's what I did!

I wanted to make my debut at the summer Charlotte Market, so I came home from the trip and stitched 2 samplers (an antique reproduction and an original design) and a Christmas ornament.

Tom was also on this trip. He and another husband handled our baggage whenever we had to change trains. Joking aside, when I started designing he began to take more of an interest in samplers and is now a valued asset to my design business.

The inspiration for my company's name, *With My Needle*, comes from a verse that appears on many samplers "... is my name and with my needle I wrought the same". My daughter, Carolyn, who is a graphic designer in Chicago designed my business logo and my chart covers.

*Where do you get your inspiration for your pieces?*

A lot of my inspiration comes from antiques. I love reading about antique needlework and visiting museum collections when I travel. I have many wonderful needlework books, and I have seen many incredible private and public needlework collections.

I have created several reproductions, many original designs, and an in-between category I call historical adaptations. My reproductions are exactly like the antiques, including the original stitcher's mistakes. My original designs frequently reflect 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> century styles. Historical adaptations are based on antiques, but I make both design and color changes when it suits my eye. By the way, I never put an old date on a new design or adaptation, and I always clearly

indicate which of these categories a particular sampler design is, so no one will think a new design is an antique reproduction.

*What drew you designing to hand-finished items?*

Once again, my main inspiration is antiques. My needlework "treasures" include folding cases, needlebooks, scissors weights, pincushions, sewing rolls, huswifs, stitching bags, and an embroidery-lined basket. Many are based on antiques in my collection. For example, the antique that inspired the *Rose Garden Sewing Case* was made of wide, red satin ribbon. It has only a few embroidery stitches on the needlepage and a decorative casing stitch on the drawstring bag. I used that format for my design, but added lots of embroidery. Another project, *A Sailor's Remembrance*, was inspired by one of the sailor's huswifs I have in my collection. *A Work'd Pocketbook* is an adaptation of a beautiful queen stitched pocketbook that I was lucky enough to find complete with the original ribbons still in tact. A warning—these little treasures, both antiques and new designs, can become quite addictive.

*Could you tell us a little about your design process? What are your steps?*

I first get a rough idea in my head, and then I start the charting process. I play around with designs and motifs and even pick some preliminary colors. This might take a day or two, or sometimes months. If I'm working on a needlework accessory and not a framed piece, I often make paper models to see how the design will look when it's assembled.

When I'm happy with the design, then I start looking at linen and thread colors. I'm very lucky to have a wide range of both on hand. I start stitching when I think I'm happy with colors, but I sometimes make changes to both the design and my thread colors—what looks nice on paper doesn't always look the same when stitched. I guess you could say that my designs evolve as I stitch them.

*How long is a typical time span from idea to production?*

There is a big range. Usually the design and model stitching take a month or two. This is the fun work, but I don't stitch as much now as I did before I started designing. I now have to devote time to paperwork, production, and filling and shipping orders, and also to new pleasures like teaching.

The slow part is getting the product ready for production, and this can take many months. I like working interactively with a professional finisher to

develop the model for a sewing case or accessory. Once the model is finished and we have an outline of the finishing instructions, then we do photography, rewrite the finishing instructions into our style, and add drawings when necessary. My husband, Tom, plays a big role in this part of the process. Since framed pieces don't need assembly instructions, they can usually be ready as soon as the stitching directions and photography are finished.

*How did you get into teaching??*

Thanks to the encouragement of my husband, friends, and Rae Iverson, I started teaching several years ago a few times a year. I am enjoying the teaching more than I ever dreamed. In fact, I've now moved into doing PowerPoint teaching presentations.

I currently have 6 teaching projects, but hope to add at least one more during the coming year. I now see why there are not that many designers who design for the retail market and also do teaching pieces—there simply aren't enough hours in the day!

I limit my teaching schedule to about 6 times a year. My 2009 teaching schedule is nearly full, and I'm beginning to book for 2010.

*What new things do you have "in the works"?*

In the next couple of weeks, I will have two new designs, *Family Record Samplers* and *A Pair of Pin Cubes*, available in needlework shops.

The package for the *Family Record Samplers* has instructions for making three different samplers which can be a birth sampler or a way to record your family history. The inspiration for this project was the birth of our first grandson, Haiden, in January 2008. I wanted a very traditional looking birth sampler versus a cutesy one. My second model records

the births of our two children. The third model was designed for more than two children. I used my grandfather's name and those of his siblings. All three models are a true celebration of family as each also has a place for the parents' and grandparents' names.



The second new project, *A Pair of Pin Cubes*, was inspired by an antique cardboard pin cube that I have. The package has directions for two different embroidered pin cubes.



In addition, I'm already preparing for the Nashville 2009 Needlework Tradeshow

in February. One of my projects will be an etui, entitled *A Fair Maiden's Etui*.

*What do you want stitchers to experience when they stitch your original designs?*

I encourage needleworkers to add their own creativity when stitching my designs. I love seeing how people make color changes, or move or add new elements. I want stitchers to enjoy their needlework, so feel free to make changes to a design to make it special and unique. How boring it would be if everyone stitched everything exactly as it's charted! This is your "work". Enjoy!!! (And please send me photos of your work!)

**Other tidbits**

In 1995, I co-founded the *Queen City Sampler Guild*. A couple of years later I started a free internet sampler newsletter, *With My Needle and Pen*. About 2000 sampler enthusiasts from all over the world now subscribe. To get on the mailing list, email me at [ellen@withmyneedle.com](mailto:ellen@withmyneedle.com)

## ***Quaker Garden Box Finishing Class***

At our April 2009 meeting, Carolyn Webb will be showing us how to finish the pieces to the Quaker Garden Box offered earlier this year. Plan now to have your stitching completed.




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***Something special's coming!!  
Mark your calendars now and watch for  
detailed information in the near future!  
August 20-22, 2009***

The Swan Sampler Guild will be holding a Swan GetAway on Aug 20-22, 2009. Amy Mitten, one of our favorite designers, is preparing a mystery sampler just for us and we're going to run away and spend a weekend together to stitch her sampler. Amy has always wanted to design a mystery sampler about William Shakespeare and since Utah is home to the Tony Award winning Utah Shakespearean Festival we're helping Amy bring her wish into being. We have reserved the The Iron Gate Inn in Cedar City, Utah just for us and Amy is hard at work creating another mystery. We will have an opportunity to attend Shakespeare plays in the evening as well!

Mark you calendars now and start saving your pennies. We will be back to you shortly with the details. We will be limited in the number we can accommodate, but we'll give everyone a chance to participate in this special opportunity. Amy's sampler will be available to all Swans, but you won't want to miss the fun of this mystery challenge first hand.

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## **Swans Needle Minder**

Looking for a gift for that special stitching friend?

You can now purchase our exclusive needle minder.

The price is \$10 plus shipping.

The proceeds go to helping preserving samplers.





## *My Hearts* by Ute Senkel-Weinberg

In January we will be doing this fun heart project. The hearts are taken from 30 hearts in Ute's *Mein Herzen* book which is distributed in the US by Caron Collections. This is a charted design that can be worked on 18 ct canvas, 24 ct Congress Cloth, or 36 ct linen. Your color selections are endless. We will be selecting nine hearts for this cute nine patch design or if you prefer you can stitch them individually or in some other configuration. Caela Conn Tyler in Denver, Colorado charted the heart border and has given us permission to use her design for this amazing project.

Ute's pattern comes from Germany and can take some time to be delivered. For that reason we want to prepare for this project in advance. Jamie at the Craft Center here in Salt Lake has agreed to order the patterns and send them out to anyone who wants to participate with us. The cost for the pattern is \$19 plus shipping and handling. To make sure we will have the patterns in time for our January meeting, we are putting a November 1<sup>st</sup> deadline on the order.

Please contact the Craft Center directly **before November 1st**: 801-944-4994 to order your pattern.

The instructions for the heart border will be distributed closer to January. The other supplies you will need for this project are listed below.

### SUPPLY LIST

- Ground Fabric - 18 m canvas: 12" x 12" or 36 ct. linen: 12" x 12" OR  
Congress Cloth: 10" x 10" mounted on stretcher bars
- Overdyed/variegated floss - about 15 yards
- 1 skein solid DMC or Anchor floss to match
- Accentuate or Kreinick blending filament to match
- Usual stitching supplies
- Paper cutting scissors
- Scotch tape

# Signs of Spring

Diane Clements is returning to the Swan Sampler Guild!! Many of you will remember the spectacular Reticello Pinkeep she designed for Threads Thru Time. If you are interested in learning more about Diane, she was featured in the 4<sup>th</sup> Quarter 2007 Swan Gazette:

<http://www.swansamplerguild.org/4thQtr2007newsletter.pdf>

In March Diane will be teaching her beautiful Signs of Spring sampler and has agreed that all Swans may participate in this project.



This 17<sup>th</sup> century style sampler represents some of Diane's favorite signs of spring. The sun rising at the bottom of the sampler is an original reticello design. Cloth stitch pyramids lead to the lacy pointed rays. A blaze of buttonhole bars and Venetian picots complete the motif. The counted bands are worked in a variety of crossed stitches, queen stitch, detached buttonhole, satin, double running and fagot. Roman and black letter alphabets plus a customizable signature band complete the piece.

The materials used in the sampler are: 23 colors of Needlepoint Inc. Silk, DMC Cordonnet Special, DMC Or clair, and gold spangles. The ground fabric is Antique Ivory Belfast Linen. The design area of the sampler measures 4 1/8" x 16 5/8".

**There will be pre-work before the workshop so Diane will be distributing the kits for workshop participants six weeks in advance. The price of the kit is \$100.00 and the deadline for signup is December 1<sup>st</sup>.**

This will be a great experience and you will love working with Diane on this beautiful sampler.



## Swan Sampler Guild Board 2006-2008

President –

**Sandra Ball** – [sball07@comcast.net](mailto:sball07@comcast.net)

VP Monthly-

**Cathy DeCaria** - [catherinedecaria@yahoo.com](mailto:catherinedecaria@yahoo.com)

VP Special Projects –

**Kathy Lind** - [lindk@earthlink.net](mailto:lindk@earthlink.net)

Secretary –

**Suzanne Miller** - [birdersuel@yahoo.com](mailto:birdersuel@yahoo.com)

Treasurer –

**Linda Schmunk** - [linda@schmunk.net](mailto:linda@schmunk.net)

Membership-

**Cathy Lloyd** - [cat.lloyd@comcast.net](mailto:cat.lloyd@comcast.net)

Education –

**Lynn Jones** - [Samplerlover@comcast.net](mailto:Samplerlover@comcast.net)

Newsletter –

**Merry Jackson** - [merry@facile.com](mailto:merry@facile.com)

## Internet Info- Please Read

We have a Yahoo! Discussion list that you can join (if you are not already signed up). Names can no longer be added so we will send an **invitation** to you.

Contact one of the following email address, [swanstitchers@yahoo.com](mailto:swanstitchers@yahoo.com) or [cat.lloyd@comcast.net](mailto:cat.lloyd@comcast.net), to be invited to the lists. You can also go directly to the URLs

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/swansampler> for the discussion list and to

<http://groups.yahoo.com/group/swanstitchers>

for the newsletter and asked to join. That way we can admit you without a problem. Just put in message area that you are a current Swan. You must sign up with BOTH the above groups to receive information about the Swans in a timely manner. It is not a requirement, however, and you can choose not to join the lists. **We encourage you to take the time to register with Yahoo.** It will save you time and aggravation in the long run. You can set your messages to arrive individually or as a digest and change your own e-mail address if need be.

## Directions to Meetings

**Salt Lake County Complex** - 2100 So. & State Street in the Salt Lake County Complex North Building Room N3005 (monthly meetings).

**Village III Condos, 1525 East 6100 South (Vine)** Vine Street is between 1300 East and Van Winkle Expressway. Village III is on the north side of the street and the Clubhouse is just inside complex entrance.

## Swan Supporter Links



**Shepherd's Bush** [www.shepherdsbush.net](http://www.shepherdsbush.net)



**Elegant Stitch** [www.elegantstitch.com](http://www.elegantstitch.com)



**Olde Willow Stitchery** [www.oldewillowstitchery.com](http://www.oldewillowstitchery.com)



**Craft Center** [www.craftcenterstitchery.com](http://www.craftcenterstitchery.com)



**Attic Needlework** [www.atticneedlework.com](http://www.atticneedlework.com)



**HollieStitch Needlecraft** [www.holliestitch.com](http://www.holliestitch.com)



**Wasatch Needlecraft** [www.wasatchneedlecraft.com](http://www.wasatchneedlecraft.com)



**Giulia Punt Antichi** [www.puntiantichi.com](http://www.puntiantichi.com)



**Kelmscott Designs** [www.kelmscottdesigns.com](http://www.kelmscottdesigns.com)



**Carolina House Designs** [carolynstandingwebb.com](http://carolynstandingwebb.com)

## Coupons for Upcoming Swan Projects

### *Diane Clements*

Signs of Spring \$100 \_\_\_\_\_

Shipping for 1 Kit \$5.00 \_\_\_\_\_

International Shipping \$15.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**Deadline December 1, 2008**

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### *Swan Needle Minder*

Quantity \_\_\_\_\_ \$10.00 each

Shipping US \$2.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Canada \$9.00 \_\_\_\_\_ Int'l \$11.00 \_\_\_\_\_

**No Deadline**

**Total \$** \_\_\_\_\_

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Yearly Membership from July 1, 2008 through June 30, 2009 **\$25.00** \_\_\_\_\_

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**Grand Total \$** \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

**\*\*Please notify us if you change your address or email.\*\*** All or part of my address has changed \_\_\_\_\_

Please send an invitation to the Swan Yahoo Groups List \_\_\_\_\_

Please make checks to: Swan Sampler Guild and Mail to:

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