

# Stitchers Hidzaway!

## 2003 Kissimmee, FL Fun Report

with  
Linda Reinmiller of [HeartWork from My Hand](#)

We did THE WILD THING in Kissimmee – and what a great time we had!

The night before the retreat began, instructor Linda Reinmiller of [HeartWork from My Hand](#) and I joined Dawn and Marie, two of the Kissimmee stitchers, for some late night fun at Downtown Disney. Emphasis on late! Linda's flight had arrived late, and then Linda and I spent time getting lost before meeting up with Dawn and Marie, and then we got just a little bit lost on the way to Downtown Disney. I was already a little tired and silly when we arrived. We did some shopping and then had a late dinner at Captain Bob's and I SWEAR TO YOU ALL that it was a virgin Pina Colada that I drank with my meal! (But I was so silly and tired that everyone questioned the drink and I heard about it all weekend long whenever I got silly again, which was often!)

After our delicious meal we did some more shopping. Marie and Linda had never been to Downtown Disney so it was especially fun for them to get in a little Disney magic during their time in Florida.



**The Calm Before the Storm**

Morning came quickly for Linda and me, and Jan & Pam from The Someday Shop, as we set up everything for the arrival of the stitchers. Just about an hour before the retreat began, a stitcher came in with bandages on her arms from IV needles and a hospital bracelet on her wrist!! She had unfortunately been admitted to the hospital a few days before the retreat began and had just been released. She insisted that her husband drive her to the hotel so she could pick up her kit and freebies before heading for home!! Now THAT'S an addicted stitcher!!



At 2 p.m. the stitchers were outside the door just waiting to get inside. It was fun to see everyone arrive and receive their Fun Packs. There were items from Anchor, [Elizabeth's Designs](#), Calico Crossroads, Charles Craft, Dames of the Needle, Finger Work, [Glory Bee](#), [Jeannette Douglas Designs](#), Just Nan, Just One More, [Rosewood Manor](#), [Krelinik](#), Mill Hill, monsterbubbles, Nordic Needle, Sue Hillis Designs, The Prairie Schooler, [Udder Cream](#) and [Weeks Dye Works](#). A BIG THANK YOU TO ALL OF YOU FOR YOUR GENEROSITY!

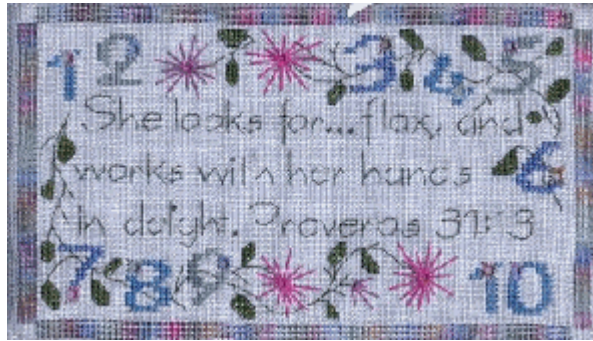


[The Someday Shop](#) had set up a mini shop for us, and I know you'll all be so surprised to hear this but....a stash enhancement frenzy began!! Yes, I know that it is shocking, but it is true!



**Hmmm...Which one should I get?**

After a while everyone settled down to begin working on The Wild Thing with Linda Reinmiller. We learned so much!! And it was interesting because stitchers had chosen different color schemes for their Wild Thing and we were able to see how the different colors would look as the stitching progressed.



**Wild Thing -- Front**



**Wild Thing - Back**



**Wild Thing Inside**



Some of the stitches were new to a lot of us, and some of our awkward attempts and out right mistakes created quite a bit of humor. I discovered after stitching for some 20 minutes that I was going in the complete wrong direction on the fabric! This, of course, caused people to question the content of that Pina Colada. Or perhaps it was when I started singing, “You put the stitches in, you take the stitches out, you put the stitches back in and you shake it all about...” Or maybe it was when I trashed a part of my linen by removing incorrect Nun stitches – and put more back in incorrectly – and took them out again!



Jackie catches up

By that time, I was even questioning that Pina Colada! And do you believe I was sitting next to a new stitcher to, ahem, help her out?!? Ohmigosh. Poor Jackie!! Well, I guess you could say she learned from some of my mistakes! We sure did have some laughs over it. After learning one new stitch after another, Jackie turned the page to the next stitch diagram in her notebook, studied it carefully, and then said, “This looks insane!!” Of course, that made us laugh some more, with some of us absolutely doubled over with tears in our eyes!



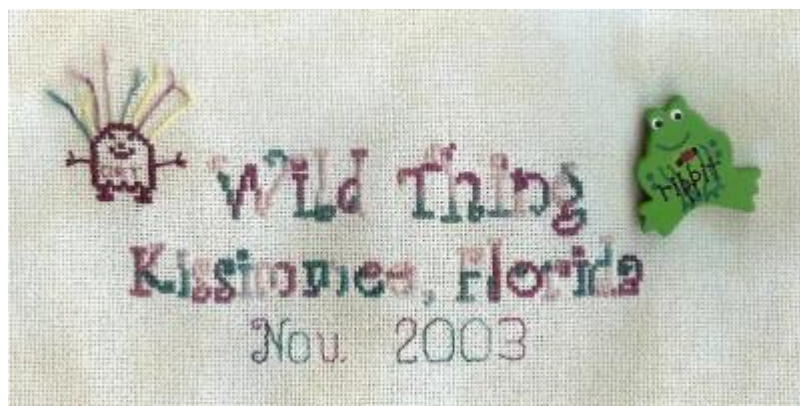
Jackie & the 3 sisters Janie, Ellen & Nancy

What a great group! Among them were 3 sisters – who each chose different color schemes for their Wild Things, and a mother and daughter team. Everyone was from Florida except for Marie, who flew in from Arizona. So guess who received the prize for traveling the farthest!



Eileen & Marleen Belina.

A mother and daughter sharing their love of needlework.



We had some very nice surprises during the retreat. Pam from the Someday Shop had designed an adorable ORT chart for us, complete with a frog with the word “Rippit” written on it.

Jan and Pam also kitted up a wonderful Florida Friends chart designed just for us by Betsy Foster of [Elizabeth's Designs](#).



Designed by Betsy Foster of Elizabeth's Designs.

Linda from Needle Craft World gave us each a beautiful purple bag with gorgeous ribbon containing scissors, charts, and a beautiful Christmas tree design with beading – all kitted up to go into a greeting card. It seemed that every time we turned around there was another gift for us.



Judy & Marie trying to ignore the photographer



**Now, Jackie - You only hold up  
*one* finger while stitching!**

Show 'n Tell was so interesting! I think we're all so talented!! We saw an adorable skirt that one stitcher made for a relative, and some quilting with beautiful stitching. One stitcher brought in her very first hardanger piece and we were all amazed at the complexity of the piece and how well she did! There were so many different pieces to see. We spread out our work onto some tables so that we could all get a closer look. It is incredibly inspiring to see the work of fellow stitchers.

Oh! And then there were the door prizes! These were donated by 4 My Boys, Finger Work, Homespun Elegance, Nordic Needle, Olde Willow Design Group, [Rosewood Manor](#), Stitchy Kitty, The Someday Shop, [The Victoria Sampler](#), Trail Creek Farm, Wichelt Imports, Inc., and, of course, Stitcher's Hideaway. THANK YOU, DONORS!! We LOVED them!!

What a great group of stitchers! What a great time!! I can hardly wait until the next Kissimmee retreat!! -  
- and my next Pina Colada!!

- Sue Donnelly



Dawn & Marge intent on their Wild Things

*"This was just the greatest retreat!! Everything was so well planned and put together - and oh my what wonderful goodies! I have never seen so many goodies!! They just kept coming! Thank you, Sue, for taking such good care of us!! All the meals were great, the classroom was great, everything was great! Linda was a fun teacher, and did a very good job of explaining everything to us - seeing all her designs was so much fun! This being a small retreat made it so much fun, and so much more intimate and relaxing for me. I thoroughly enjoyed this, and hope to be coming to many more of your retreats!!" ~ Jenny*



Sue & Linda

*"It's obvious that you put your heart and soul into these retreats and I wanted you to know that it showed! It was very well organized and I was very pleased with Linda's teaching. Mirjana and I just returned from the NeedleCraft shop in Kissimmee and bought some goodies with our 30% off coupon - who could resist????!!!! Thanks again and hopefully we can attend the March seminar as well." ~ Kristine*



*"I'm supposed to be doing homework, but I'm sitting here digging through my goody bags (with an "s"! ) still in shock at all the great goodies! I think this was the most fun retreat I have been on - even without the goody bags! Everything was great from the hotel room to the food to the classroom to Linda, our instructor and of course meeting you was the best! So much fun and enthusiasm! I can't wait until the March retreat and I hope I can go to one outside of Florida soon. I am going to recommend this to all my stitching friends." ~ Dawn*



Pam & Jan from the Someday Shop collapse after the retreat

*"I should be in a separate category when you ask things like who has their Wild Thing finished????? BUT I do have all my stash now organized and a work area more or less setup - does that count??? Believe me, that stash pile took a LONG time to organize, mostly because each one took about 5 minutes to examine. The retreat was SO MUCH FUN, even when I was whining, I was enjoying it. And that time I was in TEARS.....just kidding. Everyone was soooo nice, Linda was such a GREAT teacher and you were so much fun and a great help - did I ever really thank you for doing that basting for me??? As you found out that was about the best thing you could have done for me since it took me at least half an hour each day to recognize a hole when I saw one. I am really looking forward to doing all those neat stitches in private so I can take an hour to cover 12 threads and NO ONE WILL KNOW. I am going to be so fast on the next retreat. I can't wait, and I can't choose. I just wish I could go to each one - do you need an assistant who doesn't know anything??" ~ Jackie*



*“I had a wonderful time!!! My family could not get over all the goodies I brought home just from the retreat. I would like to express my appreciation for the work that you put into the Kissimmee stitching retreat. I truly enjoyed the weekend of stitching with fellow stitchers. The teacher that you selected was wonderful. Linda’s project is useful and her teaching techniques made the different stitches easy to try and I did not feel embarrassed when I could not follow her. I also want to thank you for all the hard work you put into soliciting designers and corporations for donations as gifts for those that attended.” ~ Marie*



**Sue at Disney World -- the tragic results  
of having too many Pina Coladas!!**

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