

Stitchers Hideaway!

2007 Mystic One & Two Fun Reports

with THEA DUECK of Victoria Sampler

WOW! Two back-to-back retreats with Thea Dueck as instructor!! They were both SO much fun!! I'm going to do my best to combine both retreats into this one report.



Thea arrived in Connecticut early, which allowed us a little time to take in some of Connecticut's gorgeous fall weather together. It was just so good to see Thea again! We had a great time catching up and sharing laughs. We did a little shopping and had some lunch, too. I was so glad that our foliage season was still showing itself off so that Thea could enjoy it.

That afternoon everything was made ready for the stitching frenzy to come, and then that night we went out for a relaxing dinner in good company. We were joined by Mikki and Mary who had scouted out a restaurant for us, and my pal Deb.

The next morning the Mystic One stitchers arrived! YAY! They were from CT, MA, MD, ME, NY and UT. Karen from Utah was the stitcher who traveled the farthest for Mystic One and she received special goodies. Everyone claimed a spot in the classroom where Fun Packs awaited them, and then headed for Chris's Collection, which had set up shop for us in a nearby room. Chris had Thea's Trunk Show there! That was awesome!! And so very tempting! It was so great to see the stitched models.

Here's Pam & Chris from Chris's Collection, and our wonderful instructor, Thea, with some of the Victoria Sampler Trunk Show. Drool....drool... drool.... Ha! I was unable to resist buying "Summer Garden" -- so cute!! There's nothing quite like seeing the stitched models!



Our Fun Packs had goodies from Calico Crossroads, Chris's Collection, [Elizabeth's Designs](#), [The Gift of Stitching](#), [Glory Bee](#), [Little House Needleworks](#), [Morning Glory Needleworks](#), [Nordic Needle](#), [Olde Colonial Designs](#), [Rosewood Manor](#), [Stitcher's Hideaway](#), [The Prairie Schooler](#), [Victoria Sampler](#), [Weeks Dye Works](#), and [Zweigart](#). Thea gave each of us a "Cottage Garden Sampler" chart!! Woo-hoo!!! Thank you, donors!



After about an hour we headed for the classroom and our first hour with Thea. We each had received our kits in the mail earlier so that we could get our threads organized, mount our linen, and do some pre-work. That allowed us to dedicate our class time to learning things like silk ribbon embroidery and hardanger. We could hardly wait for our class to begin!! Some stitchers went ahead and did more than their pre-work by basically doing any cross stitch in the design. It was pretty exciting to see that some had their little villages already stitched up and to see how beautiful it was coming out. Here's Liz with a great head start!

Look at our beautiful *Mystic Pocket* retreat project!!



All the meals were prepared by Mystic Market Catering and they were just SO delicious. The desserts were real killers! LOL!! There were lots of yummy choices at each meal.



After lunch we had time to shop and drool over Thea's trunk show, and then we headed back for class. Thea was amazingly patient and encouraging to us all -- and so sweet! Omigosh, we all just love her!! As you can imagine, we all come to the retreats with varying stitching experience. Thea checked throughout the retreat to be sure we all knew what she was talking about, and she spent extra time with those who needed it. And the other stitchers just naturally tend to help each other along. That's one of the great things about the retreats is that you get to meet other stitchers and share with each other.

Throughout both retreats wonderful door prizes were given out from Brightneedle, Chris's Collection, Earth Threads, [Elizabeth's Designs](#), [It's Fine-ally Finished](#), The Gift of Stitching, [Glory Bee](#), [Jeannette Douglas Designs](#), [Kreinik](#), Lavender Wings, [Little House Needleworks](#), M Designs, [Morning Glory Needleworks](#), [Nordic Needle](#), [Rosewood Manor](#), Stitcher's Hideaway, Stitchy Kitty, and [UnCommon Scissors](#). It was fun to see what each person received -- fun for me, too, because I wrap things way in advance and forget by the time the retreat comes around just what the door prizes are! LOL!



Bev hit the motherload with a door prize from Nordic Needle!



Liz with a door prize from Kreinik



I received some special door prizes at the retreats, too!!! Ooooooo, I love surprises! A group of stitchers from New York that call themselves the Stitching Witches (it all started when one of the stitcher's husbands said they looked like witches as they hunkered over their stitching -- tee-hee!) presented me with a beautiful scarf -- with matching fuzzy sandals!! LOL!!! They also gave me a funny stuffed moose that said "Don't Get Your Tinsel in a Tangle." Don't I just look adorable?!?

The funny thing is how they knew what size sandals to make for me. One of them sent me one of those emails that go around asking the recipient to reveal various things about themselves -- their favorites movie, their favorite color, their SHOE SIZE.... LOL!! Those rascals!!

They also made a gorgeous scarf for Thea!! How cute is that?!?



In the afternoon, those that participated in our Christmas Cookie Exchange gathered for our swap. It was great! We had a nice assortment. I brought all mine home and popped them right in the freezer. We took them out on Christmas Eve and had them for our many guests on Christmas Day.



Kathy & Linda with door prizes from Elizabeth's Designs above.



Linda, Marianne, and Cynthia with door prizes



That evening after yet another delicious meal, we gathered for a surprise from me -- and a special surprise from Betsy Foster of Elizabeth's Designs. Betsy has been supportive since the very first Stitcher's Hideaway retreat in 2002. She created a special design just for the attendees at the Mystic 2007 retreats -- a sweet little keepsake, shown left as stitched and finished by Cynthia. There were also quite a few door prizes from Elizabeth's Designs that were given out that evening.

Then came the surprise from me -- "Merry Mystic" -- an ornament I designed using beautiful metallic threads by

Kreinik! Kreinik's metallic threads rock! They are so easy to use. The ornaments were stitched on Mill Hill Silver Metallic perforated paper. The backs were covered in forest green sticky-back felt that held all the threads perfectly in place and quickly and easily finished it. Many of the stitchers completed theirs during the retreat. Everyone received what they needed to make one ornament, but they also received some other charted ornaments to do on their own. Pam from California wrote later to let me know she made up 10 of the ornaments for her friends! They were so easy to make, and because they are flat, they were easy to send along to friends and families in Christmas cards. It was hard to capture how pretty and sparkly they are by scanning them, but you can get the general idea -



Linda from Maine working on her ornie



Bev & Pam from California working on Ornies

Our second day passed happily -- and all too quickly!! -- in class, at meals, shopping, and then on our last evening we had our Christmas Ornament Exchange! Those who participated brought in a gift-wrapped stitched ornament. Each participant drew a number and then in numerical order they chose a gift. They were beautiful!!! Here's some pictures below from both retreats.



After the Christmas Ornament Exchange, we had Show 'n Tell. I love Show 'n Tell! It's so much fun to see everyone's stitching! At these retreats we also had quilting, felting, beading, and knitting represented. We heard some great stories about the different masterpieces, and had some great laughs!











At one of the retreats, Linda showed us some quilts that were made from the stitched contributions of many for children with Spinal Muscular Atrophy. This project, Coles Quilts, was inspired by Cole, a sweet little boy that many stitchers came to know through 123stitch.com, which has a message board for stitchers. Linda finds out a child's favorite colors, characters, animals, etc. and then puts out the request so that people can stitch up something appropriate. Linda then assembles all the pieces into quilts and delivers them to the child with SMA. Here's a website to read more about Coles Quilts and to be a volunteer.



It was sad to end our time together, but wow, we sure left with some great memories -- and new skills!

Before we go on to read about Mystic Two, here's what some of the Mystic One stitchers had to say....



"Well, it was another great weekend. Mystic was my third Hideaway; you always combine a great designer, great food and a great stitching atmosphere. It's always nice to reconnect with friends made at past Hideaways and make new friends at each successive Hideaway. I recognize and appreciate the time and effort you put in to make your Hideaways run smooth. Thank you, thank you, thank you! See you soon at another Stitcher's Hideaway." ~ Fondly, Mary B.

"Had a great time and your arrangements were impeccable, as always. Hope to see you in the near future." ~ Linda C.

"I had a wonderful time and just loved Thea's project. I only have the remainder of the ribbon embroidery to do on the pocket and the tuffet and have started to stitch the needle books. I'll need to put it down for a while because I need to stitch something for my EGA Christmas exchange at the beginning of December. I attended our monthly EGA meeting last night and brought the Mystic project to work on. Everyone just loved the project and were all jealous!!" ~ Linda M.



"I had a great time at the retreat. It was because of the great company I was with! Seeing old friends and making new ones. Again, it was great to have a class with Thea. She is so talented and so patient with all of us -- from Beginner to the Experienced. I am glad I hinted about the ribbon stitching! It was so easy! I can't wait to use it on clothes. Hardanger is nerve racking! Grr.. Next time I will count twice, cut once! I dislike having to reweave an area. Even though you can't really see where the mistake was. I was grateful for having Thea there to help me with the "mistake". I am still

working on my tuffett. LOL oops, Made a mistake there too! The ornament exchange was fun and so was show & tell! What wonderful talented people we know. I learned a lot that weekend. The food was great. OMG, first time I ever had corn chowder. I really look forward to my "Sleepaway Stitching" as Emily calls it. I think that's so cute. She didn't even miss me! Until our stitches meet again." Liz L - Stitching Witches



"Sue, as usual you put together an awesome retreat! The food was so "eat-too-much" phenomenal especially that fresh corn chowder! Thea is such a great teacher: challenging but supportive. You were right about those lovely silk roses...who thought they could be so easy and look so good? Someone asked me today why I went to Connecticut for class and didn't learn from the I-net. I explained that I went for the camaraderie and not just to learn new stitches. I enjoy meeting, talking, learning and laughing with other stitchers. I enjoy meeting renowned instructors. I just like Sue's fun retreats which have become at least an annual event for us. Garry and Winston are already planning for next year's retreat!! So, we'll see you next November if not sooner."

~ Marianne

“Just wanted to tell you how much I enjoyed Mystic this year. You do a fabulous job at organizing a really wonderful event. I enjoyed the class, the camaraderie, and of course, the food. Looking forward to Sturbridge in July. Thanks.” ~ Mikki

The next day was Sunday -- the day between the two retreats. Ever the morning person, Thea headed out early for a walk to Mystic Seaport armed with her brand-new digital camera. She had a lot of fun taking pictures and enjoying the scenery. Yours truly slept long and hard, then got things set up for the Mystic Two stitchers. My buddy Deb and I did make it into Mystic Seaport for a little while and for the first time went to a local bead shop that stitchers had been raving about. I found some great charms to use on my stitching. Woo-hoo! We ran into the Stitching Witches there and other Mystic One stitchers as well.

On Sunday evening Deb and I decided to head for Friendly’s restaurant for dinner. We ran into one of the Mystic Two stitchers - - Wanda from MD -- who had just arrived at the hotel, and so we asked her to join us. That was fun! Neither of us had met Wanda before and so we enjoyed getting to know her...and we enjoyed our Swiss Chocolate Almond Sundaes, too!! And during the retreat, Wanda presented me with this beautiful scarf! Am I blessed or what!! I’ve always loved these colorful fluffy scarfs, and now with a blue one from the Stitching Witches and this multi-colored beauty I have two to play with all winter long! And they both go with my winter coat!!



MYSTIC TWO BEGINS!

Monday morning finally arrived and in came the **Mystic Two Stitchers!** This group came from AL, CA, CT, MA, MD, NJ, NY, OH, PA, and VA. Kim from California was the stitcher who traveled the farthest for Mystic Two and so she received special goodies. There were four Californians at Mystic Two and they were a wild bunch! LOL!! They showed up for one of the class times in purple feather boas and proclaimed themselves “Stitchers Gone Wild!” -- and they were! As were some of the other stitchers!! (Names have been omitted to protect the...um...guilty!)



The Mystic Two stitchers arrived just as excited as the Mystic One stitchers. They dove into their Fun Packs and shopped and laughed, saw old friends and met new ones. They, too, had a great time in class and were also super impressed with Thea's patient teaching. Thea's hard work certainly paid off. You should have seen us! We were awesome!! We did kloster blocks, *cut* threads (omigosh!!), learned to repair when we cut the wrong threads (giggle!), wove threads, and looked in awe at what we accomplished!!

But that's not all! You should have just seen us making our incredible silk roses and leaves!! Oh, we are just *so cool* now, I'm telling you! We can do *anything!* LOL!!

Here's some pics of the Mystic Two gals.





Ladies, ladies! This is serious stuff! What's with all this laughing!!



This is me tormenting stitchers with a camera, at the same time someone is tormenting *me* with a camera! Note Lara on far right letting me know just what she thinks of all my picture taking! LOL!!



Yes, it's true. No one is safe from the camera!!



Not even me!!! Ta-dah!!!!



Thea loses it in front of the camera! Heh-heh-heh!



At this retreat I received a surprise from Thea! Here it is, kinda blurry -- but I just had to show it to you. It is a bejeweled frog! Its mouth opens to hold treasures -- or in my case, orts! Here it is pictured with numerous orts, and looking quite full.

How fun that I also had a little surprise for Thea! It was a little cork-top container that said "Ashes of Problem Students." Wha-ha-ha-ha-ha!!

Chris & Pam from Chris's Collection also gave me a doorprize! I received a VS design -- a Birthday Needleroll Kit!

The Mystic Two retreat flew by!! We sure had a great time and made some wonderful memories. What a blast! What could be better for stitch addicts then to get together for 2 whole days and nights of stitching, eating, learning, eating, shopping, eating, giggling, stitching, eating..... LOL!! But I think I'll leave this Fun Report with their own words!

Sue



Virginia wins a door prize from Kreinik!

"I had such a wonderful time at your retreat!!! I wish I had gone before!!! You are such a gracious hostess - and such a story teller!!!! I loved all your stories - especially how you and Mike got together. I am looking forward to the next retreat!!! I wish you and your family a most blessed Thanksgiving. And I hope that you get to RELAX!!!! ~ Love, Linda Z."

"I sure enjoyed the retreat from every aspect – the rooms, the food, the class with Thea, the camaraderie of friends, the opportunity to meet new people, the location and the weather! We were very blessed. Thanks for wonderful time. ~ Bev W."

"Thank you for all of your hard work in putting together Stitcher's Hideaway. I have thoroughly enjoyed my first visit. I really appreciated having dinner with you and Deb Sunday evening. It was nice having company and I got to learn more about both of you. I look forward to stitching my ornament. You run a wonderful seminar. Thea is a good teacher so all went hand in hand for a great time. Thanks for everything. ~ Wanda"



"Well, you did it again! Mystic II was a blast. I was thrilled with the opportunity to meet and stitch with Thea. I'm so glad I came. Thanks for your work in organizing everything – accommodations, food (yum yum), goodie bags, prizes and most of all the wonderful designer/teachers you present. I can't wait to hear about all your future Hideaways. See you soon, I hope. ~ Linda E."

"Thanks for yet another great retreat! Your efforts are appreciated. Have a great Holiday Season! ~ Stitching Friends, Laurel"



Door Prizes from Elizabeth's Designs!

*“Thank you so much for the Sudberry House Needle Tool Box I received as a door prize at Stitcher’s Hideaway II. It is a very attractive box that is luxurious to the touch. I will think of my time at Mystic every time I use it. And it’s only appropriate that it is a Connecticut product! These retreats are a great thing that you do for those of us who are so addicted to the Needle arts! I enjoyed every minute of it and thank you for the opportunity to meet Thea and receive instruction directly from her. Thea’s designs have been favorites of mine for years. What a great way to meet such good people – as stitchers seem to be! Thanks again for accommodating us all so well – including my sisters for Tuesday luncheon. May God bless you.
~ Love, Pat Y.”*



*“I had a wonderful time! The vegetarian meals were fantastic! I’m inspired to make those yummy orange-glazed carrots for Thanksgiving. Thea was wonderful and I learned so much in her class. After learning hardanger, I was able to finally complete the Victoria Sampler Butterfly Garden design. Learning the silk ribbon and hardanger techniques have really opened the door to all sorts of new stitching! This is sew exciting!! Thank you, Sue, for going above and beyond to make Stitcher’s Hideaway a very special and truly memorable retreat. You were so much fun! Gee, I could use a couple more Hideaway t-shirts! ;) Chris and Pam are such lovely ladies and all the work they did was very much appreciated. I loved the ornament swap and show & tell... what a talented bunch! I’m so looking forward to next year’s retreat in Mystic! What else could I say, Stitcher’s Hideaway... the nicest (and most talented) group of stitchers I’ve ever met!
~ Hugs & stitches, Dawn B.”*



OMIGOSH!! LOOK AT THAT DIAGRAM!!! tee-hee...

"I just wanted to thank you once again for an absolutely perfect retreat. I've been to LOTS of meetings & have also worked with meeting planners, and this is the smoothest I've ever seen anything run - so very well organized, every detail attended to - and the food was out of this world! So, I'm looking forward to joining everybody again, maybe even at the alumni retreat. ~ Love, Gail"



Wow! That's a lot of progress, Jeannette!

"Just wanted to say 'thank you' again for a wonderful experience! As one of your 'newbies,' I felt right at home. I know you worked hard and it showed...everything was well thought out, well planned, and truly appreciated. Thank you again for all that you did...and continue to do...for all crazed stitchers!! ~ Sincerely, Honey"



Linda with Door Prize from Kreinik



Lara with Door Prize from Stitcher's Hideaway

"I want to thank you for the wonderful retreat. Not only did I learn a great deal, but I laughed, ate well, met some wonderful people, and was entertained with your wonderful stories. Until we meet again, Jeannette"



Glory Bee Door Prizes!

"I had such a fabulous time in Mystic! You did an awesome job at this retreat. Thea was the best! The food was to die for! The shop set up by Chris' Collections was perfect! Stitching gals gone wild had way too much fun. I woke up at 4:15am this morning, 7:15am East Coast time. I guess my body was telling me it was time to stitch! Keep up the good work. Hopefully we can attend another Stitcher's Hideaway Retreat soon! ~ Kim"



Jeanne with Door Prize from Rosewood Manor!



Sue behaving for a couple of minutes...sort of...



Kerri with Earth Threads Door Prize



Lara still sticking out her tongue at me -- and now captured for all time!!



Karen with cool Door Prize from Kreinik



Door Prizes from Stitchy Kitty!



Note that Lara's tongue is no longer sticking out at me!



They're driving me to drink!



Stash....must have more stash....



What?!? Laughing during Show 'n Tell!?



Lesley and Gail -- Stitchin' 'n Grinnin'!



Sue...if you don't get away from me with that camera.....



Dawn and Kathy became great new buds!!



They left moultings throughout the hotel....



...then terrorized lobsters in Mystic!!

Is anyone safe from the Stitches Gone Wild?!?
LOL!!!! I DOUBT IT!!!!

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