

# Stitchers Hideaway! 2007 in Sturbridge, MA Fun Report with Jeannette Douglas!



What a wonderful, wonderful, wonderful time we had at the Sturbridge retreat!!! There were FORTY of us there, plus the shop owners and our fantastic instructor, Jeannette Douglas of [Jeannette Douglas Designs](#)! This group came from California, Connecticut, Georgia, Idaho, Maine, Massachusetts, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, and Canada. What fun to see everyone after all the excited email exchanges over the previous months!

The retreat was held once again at the Publick House in Sturbridge, MA -- just about a mile from [Old Sturbridge Village](#). There is a lot to see in the area and so many of the attendees worked in some additional vacation time to explore some of it.

*Everyone was very eager for the retreat to begin! As soon as the doors were opened, they poured into the large classroom where they were immediately surrounded by stash, glorious stash!! Chris's Collection, [Olde Colonial Designs](#), and Scandinavian Stitches had all set up shop for us. Wow!!*



Everyone picked up their Fun Packs, and while some jumped right into shopping, others dove into the Fun Packs. There were goodies from Calico Crossroads, Chris's Collection, [Elizabeth's Designs](#), The Gift of Stitching, [Glory Bee](#), [Jeannette Douglas Designs](#), [Little House Needleworks](#), [Morning Glory Needleworks](#), [Olde Colonial Designs](#), [Rosewood Manor](#), Scandinavian Stitches, [Stitcher's Hideaway](#), Sue Hillis Designs, The Prairie Schooler, [Victoria Sampler](#), and [Zweigart](#). We were delighted, and so appreciative of the designers and companies that donated items for us.



Our first hour together was a mix of getting settled in the classroom, playing in the Fun Packs and shopping and shopping. Ahhhhh. Paradise!

Once we gathered for class, we discovered who traveled farthest -- Margaret from CA was the winner! But... she wouldn't have even attended if Denise from CA didn't tell her all about it, and the two of them live just 15 minutes away from each other. SO, for their loooong travel to Sturbridge they each received some special gifts. Woo-hoo! Here's Margaret and Denise (holding a door prize she received from It's Fine-ally Finished).

Now since I have mentioned Denise, let me tell you a little about her. Denise and I connected over the internet perhaps as long as 2 years ago while her husband was serving in Iraq. We exchanged a lot of email during that time. Thankfully, her husband returned home safe and sound and has since retired from military service. Denise had been longing to attend a retreat so once her husband returned, she finally made plans with Margaret. They made an extended vacation out of it and spent time in Boston, too. To the delight of many lucky stitchers, Denise brought along bottles of Wild Bunch wine to give away as door prizes! (Denise lives in wine country.) She has also created some designs for her local EGA and donated some of those for door prizes, too! What a sweetie. Thanks, Denise!



Jeannette begins our Class

It was finally time to work on our gorgeous project, *Massachusetts - The Bay State*, designed for us by Jeannette Douglas. First, Jeannette showed us the finished sampler framed in two different ways. Wow, what an amazing difference in the overall impact of each one! We drooled, and some of us tried to make bargains with Jeannette to “free” her of having to transport the samplers back home, all to no avail. So, we got started on our own samplers by doing a bit of basting in preparation for the afternoon session. We all enjoyed listening to Jeannette’s Canadian accent, ay?

After lunch, and more shopping (of course!), we began working on the flag banner across the top of the sampler, which sets the tone for the wonderful history that abounds in the State of Massachusetts. Next, we started working on the trail that runs down the middle of the sampler. This helped us to move from spot to spot to work on specialty stitches in different areas of our fabric. The trail represents the Mohawk and Freedom Trails, which connect in the middle to the Boston Common. The design was full of motifs and depictions of early New England, yet retained the land we’ve come to know now. A quote from Henry David Thoreau, the Concord born philosopher and author of *Walden*, which is a reflection upon simple living in natural surroundings, is used in this piece to reflect the stitcher’s feeling of companionship that we share in our love of stitching. The sampler captures a bit of Cape Cod to the Berkshires. There is a New England church, chickadees (state bird), the Mayflower, tea party, an elm tree (state tree), colonial wallpaper motif, Nantucket baskets, corn, hats (pilgrim, witch, Paul Revere), a grist mill and sheep, Iroquois feather, an American Liberty quilt pattern, stars, flag, maple leaf, Boston Harbor, the grasshopper weathervane on top of Faneuil Building (the Cradle of Liberty), shells, sand dunes, and water, old candlesticks, cranberries, apples, a lobster and cod (state fish), weaving (darning to represent the textile industry), a cape cod house, and so much more!



We worked away happily, breaking here and there for meals and shopping. The room we used at the Publick House is very large. We had roomy seating for everyone to stitch in comfort, plus room for all 3 shops to be set up -- along with all the goodies from Stitcher’s Hideaway, too. At meal time we simply walked into an adjoining room, and wow, did we ever have some great meals! Every meal was buffet style so that we could pick and choose just what we would like out of their many yummy offerings. Some of us became a little addicted to the Publick House sticky buns! LOL! Everything was so yummy. Here’s the menu from just one of our meals: Publick House Bakery Basket featuring Homemade Cheese Bread, Nut Bread, Corn Muffins and Sweet Rolls. Homemade Soup of the Day, New Potato Salad with Artichoke Hearts, Pancetta, Cured Olives, Capers and Fresh Dill. Grilled Asparagus, Mozzarella and Oven Dried Tomatoes. Tossed Spinach Salad with Bacon and Roasted Garlic. New England Seafood Pie, Herb Roasted Lemon Chicken, Rice Pilaf, Seasonal Vegetables, Deep Dish Apple Pie with Vermont Cheddar Cheese and Whipped Cream, Coffee and Decaffeinated Coffee, Assortment of Hot Teas. Now I bet just reading that is bringing back some delicious memories for the attendees!



Note the many packages of Good 'n Plenty in back of Jeannette! Those who have taken her classes in the past remembered her fondness for them and showered her with many boxes!



Throughout the retreat names were drawn for door prizes generously donated by Brightneedle, Brittercup Designs, Cherished Stitches, Chris's Collection, Earth Threads, Elizabeth's Designs, Finger Work, It's Fine-ally Finished, The Gift of Stitching, Glory Bee, Jeannette Douglas Designs, Kreinik, Lavender Wings, M Designs, Nordic Needle, Rosewood Manor, Stitchy Kitty, With My Needle, and, of course, Stitcher's Hideaway. Thank you so much, donors! You made a LOT of smiles!

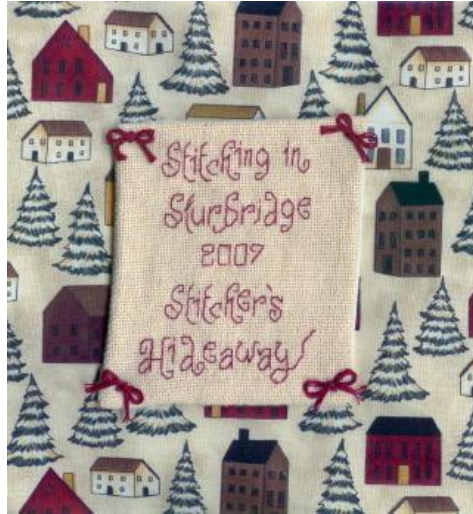


Look at all the recipients of door prizes donated by Glory Bee!



And recipients of door prizes from Stitchy Kitty!

After a delicious dinner, we gathered once again in our classroom for a surprise from me! For this group I created a little pillow to commemorate our time together. Here's a picture of it (deflated, of course! Kind of hard to scan as a pillow!).



The next morning, we had a delicious breakfast together and then gathered for our morning class with Jeannette. We laughed and learned and stitched away the hours that just flew by!!



Some of the stitches Jeannette taught us were Rhodes, Laisy Daisy, Leaf, Tied Oblong, Ray, Long Arm, Fly , Herringbone, Eyelet, Rice, Shell, Hungarian, Mosaic, Milanese, over one, Italian, Colonial Knot, Star, Woven, Herringbone, and Brick. It was amazing how much we covered in one retreat! Jeannette gave us great written instructions and diagrams to follow later when we continued working on the samplers on our own.



I wonder what stitch she was teaching us here?!? LOL!!! Kind of looks like the Roller Coaster Stitch!!!!



Some lucky stitchers share their passion for needlework with family members.



Sisters Elsa and Juana



Mom Georganne and daughter Kimberly



Here's Mom SueEllen with daughters Ally and Melissa



That afternoon we had a fantastic presentation by Jean Contino, Coordinator of Crafts and Households, and Rebecca Nourse, Collections Manager, at Old Sturbridge Village entitled "*From Corset to Cap: The Layers of Fashion*" -- a talk about ladies' clothing from the 1830s! They used garments and accessories from the collection of Old Sturbridge Village to discuss the many layers of clothing worn by ladies of the early nineteenth century to create a fashionable figure. At that time, stylish ladies used these layers to achieve sloping shoulders, a narrow waist, full sleeves, and bell-shaped skirts. We saw undergarments (such as shifts, stays, busks, puffs, pockets, and petticoats) along with gowns and embroidered accessories! It was fascinating! Jean (pictured at left) was just a wealth of knowledge, answering question after question.

I must say that as I sat there in my capris and t-shirt -- with a mere two articles of under-garments, I felt very grateful to be living in 2007!!

Now just imagine having these lovely sticks inserted into your undergarments so that you would have nice posture! (Rebecca is holding them.)





Oh, my!!! Almost ready to go out on the town...



There were a few more layers in there, too! But Jean did more than show us the clothing. She told us about the materials, how things were made, mourning customs of the times, and SO much more!! It was an outstanding lecture!



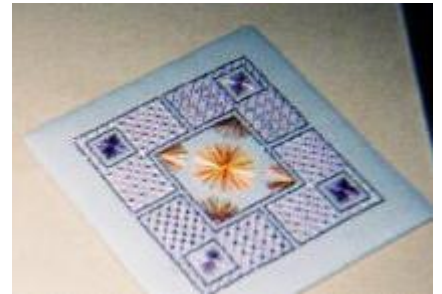
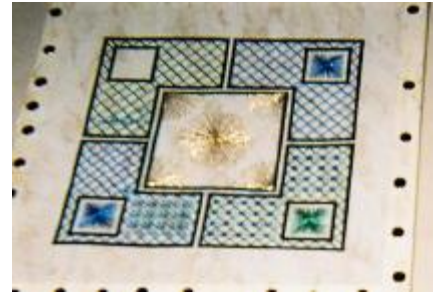
After the lecture came another incredible meal, and then our grande finale -- Show 'n Tell! I have to say that no pictures could do justice to the many beautiful works of art that were shown. It was fascinating and fun. Jean and Rebecca stayed on to enjoy the show.



This is Laurel and Kerri during Show 'n Tell. Kerri did most of the stitching for these items, and her pal Laurel does her finishing.

We saw quite a display - - some quilting and embroidered clothing, too. Here's just a sampling.





It was a lot of fun to walk around and admire everyone's work!





Well, another retreat has come and gone...but we made some wonderful memories to enjoy for a long time to come. This was a great group of stitchers -- talented and so much fun! It was a pleasure to be with you all!

Sue



*"Thank you, thank you, thank you. It just doesn't seem enough to say for all you do to make the retreats what they are. And Sturbridge was yet again wonderful to say the least. I'm not sure what I enjoyed most ... meeting and working with Jeanette, the camaraderie of old and new friends, the door prizes, the shopping, the lecture, the food, the beautiful setting ... all of it was magnificent. You, again, outdid yourself. There's nothing better than putting your cares aside for two days and spending it with women who share your passion." ~ Cynthia*



*"Sturbridge was great! Thanks to you and your team for all your hard work and efforts for these weekends!" ~ Laurel*



*“Well, Margaret and my big adventure came to a close on Tuesday. We flew back to CA with so much stuff!! I wanted to thank you for such a wonderful time at the retreat!! It was so great to finally greet you and get a huge hug from you after 2 years of emailing back and forth. It felt like I had known you forever.*

*I don't think I can put into words to describe the retreat, but I shall try. Sue, you are a dedicated and caring lady who knows what stitchers want!! I just wish the 2 days were more!! The fun and laughter alone are worth the price of coming to one of these events. The door prizes were out of*

*this world. The goodie bags.....HOLY COW!!!!!! They were stuffed!! I was starting to worry about how I was going to pack all of it and not go over the weight limit the airlines impose on us travelers. Thank you for honoring Margaret and I with the long distance goodie bags. We were thrilled.*

*You always made sure we were well pampered and spoiled rotten. Thank you for such a wonderful vacation. I haven't been that relaxed in years!!!! The Publick House was a fantastic choice for the retreat. I look forward to coming back next year. Margaret is coming back as well. I am bringing my daughter next time. She will enjoy this as much as I do. Let's not forget the fantastic food. Oh man it was sooooo good. I have never been so spoiled and pampered anywhere like being at the Publick House. The management was fantastic. Michelle went out of her way to make sure we were taken care of.*

*What can you say about our instructor Jeannette???? She is such a fun lady. I can't thank her enough for the wonderful MA sampler. Margaret and I went sightseeing while there. We actually had 3 more days after the retreat to visit Salem, Boston, and Plymouth. It was a thrill to have all the places we saw on the sampler and know that when we look at it, we shall remember the people, places, and food with a smile on our lips.*

*To our fellow stitchers, what a treat to have met you all, especially the front row on the left side of the room... funny and wonderful ladies. I loved the humor of each one. I hope to see some of them at the next one I attend. Thank you for welcoming the 2 of us from California. The ladies that do come to your retreats year after year I can understand why. It's the camaraderie, laughter, and love of stitching that make these stitchers come back for more each year.*

*Thank you again for all the hard work you do for us.” ~ Sincerely, Denise*



*“This has been the 9th Stitcher's Hideaway retreat I've attended and I continue to be impressed with the work that Sue puts into her retreats to make them such a fun time for everyone. It's so nice to meet up again with familiar faces and to meet new stitchers. As usual the food was great, vendors had fun stuff for us, the presentation by the ladies from Sturbridge Village was excellent and Jeannette's Sampler was beautiful and she was fun as usual. Thanks, Sue, for the goodie bags and the door prizes! I'm now looking forward to Mystic in November!” ~ Linda M.*



Deb and Maureen



Debby & Mary -- from the wild front row!

*“Just a quick note to thank you for a fabulous time in Sturbridge – I haven't laughed that hard in a long time! The food, the company, the teacher, the piece was too terrific and you...well, words cannot explain!! Take care...enjoy the summer...see you in Mystic! Ha-ha!!” ~ Love, Debby W.*



Winners of Door Prizes from Kreinik: Karen, Ruth, Karin, Esther

“Just wanted to let you know that I had a great time at "Stitcher's Hideaway" in Sturbridge, MA. This quaint town was an ideal place to retreat to. Had a great time at the Retreat and the week following (our vacation). We actually stayed in South Yarmouth, Cape Cod but traveled as far north (one hour) into Maine. Gail has a sister up there and we spent one night with her. The mosquitoes are really bad in Maine. I had a great week (very expensive! this area of the country) but well worth it. The history is so captivating here. I drove almost 1200 miles from the Cape up thru Maine. Good thing we had unlimited mileage! We both thought the New England area was beautiful. We stopped in Boston on our way back to the Cape and saw The Commons and where the Freedom Trail begins. I never would have known anything about it if it were not incorporated into "The Sampler". So, for me, this has been a learning vacation filled with loads of American history. Hope to attend another of your retreats in the future. Thanks again for everything!”  
~ Patti (Froggy), Ohio



Linda with Sudberry Box Doorprize



Gail & Patti



Linda, Deb, Maureen, Lauren

“It’s Sunday morning, the day after! I’ve just had my coffee, along with a sticky bun from the Publick House Bakery. My thank you notes to Kreinik and Brightneedle have been written. Now it’s YOUR turn!

What can I say except “THANK YOU” once again for a wonderful time. I always enjoy Stitcher’s Hideaway, but I think this has been my favorite so far. I love the Sturbridge setting – the Publick House Inn was especially good on the food department.

And then, of course, was Jeannette with her awesome Massachusetts Sampler, which is going to make a few people jealous! And I’d like to thank you for arranging the visit by the ladies of Old Sturbridge Village – I thought the lecture was wonderful!

I hated to leave early in a way, but it took a while to lug all the bags in!! LOL!! Seriously, thank you so much Sue; I’ll look forward to the next time!”

~ Love, Karin



Pat, Esther, Karin

*"I wanted to write to tell you what a blast I had at the Sturbridge Hideaway. All your arrangements were wonderful and the setting superb. I really appreciate your work in lining up terrific designers like Jeannette and gathering all our gifts and door prizes. I especially want to thank you for my door prizes: the Desk Box from Sudberry and the sampler from Carriage House Samplings. I feel especially lucky to have won those. I hope to see you again soon. I'm working on arrangements for Mystic II. ~ Yours in Stitching, Linda"*



Peggy & Cynthia



Jeannette & Patti

*"In short, the only way to describe the weekend is "Incredible" from start to finish. The weekend was like one big high point, each event building off the prior one. No, the sampler isn't finished, but all who have seen it in progress fall in love with it! I am in no rush to finish it because whenever I work on it, a flood of memories come to mind. Thank you for making the weekend so special. I look forward to joining with everyone next July, if not sooner." ~ Mary R.*





Cool Chandeliers in our Classroom!



See you Next Year!

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