

Thanksgiving Retreat

Fun Report

**with Thea Dueck of Victoria Sampler
October 2017 in Sturbridge, MA**



We certainly had a lot to be thankful for at our Thanksgiving Retreat! To begin with, we were super thankful for Thea Dueck, our wonderful instructor, and her gorgeous “Thanksgiving Sampler” designed for this retreat!

We arrived VERY excited and ready to stitch! We gathered from CA, CO, CT, GA, IN, MA, ME, MN, NC, NY, NJ, OH, PA, RI, VA and Ontario, Canada for this special time together.

It’s so much fun hearing everyone as they arrive – all the excited greetings as they see familiar faces and meet new stitchers! And inside our huge classroom, Jen and I had set up the Stitcher’s Hideaway Boutique and Maeann from Bush Mountain Stitchery set up shop for our stash enhancement pleasure!

Here’s the calm before the storm....



And then....in they all came – looking for a seat, playing in their Fun Packs, talking and catching up, and even beginning their stash enhancement!



The Fun Packs were decorated with BIG fall flowers that many of us later clipped to our hair, clothes, and pocketbooks!

The Fun Pack donations came from [123Stitch](#), [Camille Beckman](#), [Elizabeth's Designs](#), [Bush Mountain Stitchery](#), [Kreinik](#), [Morning Glory Needleworks](#), [Rosewood Manor](#), [Samplers & Such](#), [Stitchers Hideaway](#), [Tempting Tangles](#), [Udder Cream](#), [Victoria Sampler](#) and [Weeks Dye Works](#). What fun to see all the goodies!



After about an hour we settled down to begin our class with Thea.

Thea's project for us was her **Thanksgiving Sampler**, designed specifically for this retreat. The linen was wonderful and we had rich overdyed flosses, solid silk and beads.

Thea managed to capture both traditional and modern Thanksgiving scenes. The verse on the sampler was so perfect:

*"The year has turned its circle
The Seasons come and go
The Harvest all is gathered in,
And chilly North Winds blow.
Orchards have shared their treasures,
The fields their yellow grain.
So open wide the doorway,
Thanksgiving comes again!"*

Throughout our two days of classes we learned many specialty stitches including Rhodes Hearts, Smyrna crosses, upright cross stitch, satin stitch, over-one, Modified Smyrna Triple Rice, French Knot, Algerian Eyelet, Lazy Daisy, Honeycomb Hemstitch, Arrowhead Stitches, Knit Stitch, Nite Knotters Stitch, Plait Stitch, Reversed Scotch Stitch, Herringbone, Sheaf Stitch, and Beaded Interlaced Hemstitch! Thea's instructions and our printed directions to refer to later were excellent.

We had some pre-work to do before the retreat. We stitched kloster blocks for the foundation of the hardanger portion of the design, and then could stitch anything else we were up to doing. A good amount of class time was spent on cutting and weaving the Hardanger, including the wrapping, dove's eyelets, and partial Greek Crosses, and working the Algerian Eyelets. Thea expertly guided us through all the techniques.

It was just amazing how much learned in the two days! Some of us worked on practice linen in class to try out the various stitches and then stitched on the sampler at home. Some of us just jumped right in and worked on the sampler linen.





Here we are working hard...or hardly working....



Here we are during our hardanger session.



Barbara



Chris



Cathi & Barb



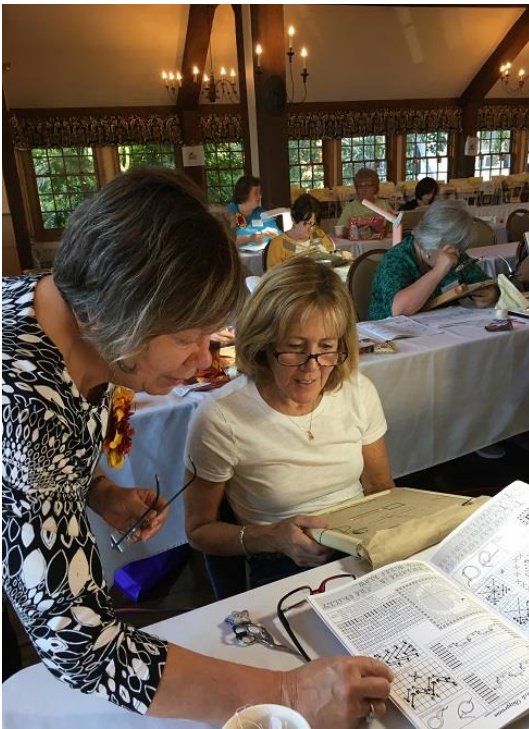
Linda



Haha! Here's Deb about to start cutting threads!



Yay! We did it!



Thea helping Deborah...



...and Linda

Look at all the different frames and lighting used! Some even stitched in hand without the use of a frame.



Maureen



Marietta & Ellen



Kathi





Thea helping Gladys



....and Kathi.



It's a good thing we had plenty of food breaks. I always announced, "It's time for our next feeding!" Heeheehee! One evening we had a complete Thanksgiving Dinner with all the trimmings!



Look at us waiting so patiently to be served.

Generous door prizes were given out throughout the retreat. They were donated by [123Stitch](#), [Brightneedle](#), [Bush Mountain Stitchery](#), [Lizzie Kate](#), [Rosewood Manor](#), [Stitchers Hideaway](#), [Victoria Sampler](#), [Weeks Dye Works](#), and [With My Needle](#). What fun to receive a door prize!



Deb with a door prize from [Lizzie Kate](#)



Chris with a door prize from [123Stitch](#)



Barb with a door prize from [With My Needle](#)



Kathi with a door prize from [Victoria Sampler](#)



Linda with a door prize from a Mystery Donor



Gail with a door prize from [123Stitch](#)



LuAnne with a door prize from Brightneedle



Kathy with a door prize from [Weeks Dye Works](#)



Darlene with a door prize from [123Stitch](#)

In the evening after a full day of classes we had fun with Needlework Bingo! Here are two of the winners with their great prizes.



Ruth



Donna

That night everyone received a kit to make this little pillow designed as a keepsake of our time together.



We also had a Stitching Exchange! All participants stitched something related to Thanksgiving and then finished it as an object. The many different designs and items were amazing! It was a lot of fun!



Darlene



Debbie



Gladys



Kathi



Kathy



Linda



Loretta



Maureen



Patti



Meredith



Linda



Sue (Me!)



Teresa



The next day we went right back to our stitching. I just can't tell you how much fun it is to be with others that share your passion – and then to have such a top-notch designer and instructor with a gorgeous project for us!



Debbie's progress



Bruce & Kathy



Lenore



Kathi, Meredith, Linda



Deborah



Anne



Charlene



Stephanie



Loretta



Sandy



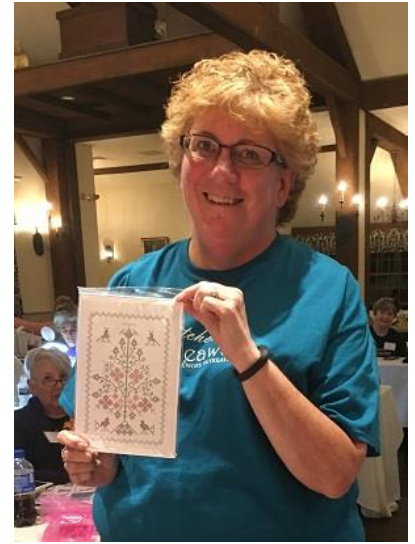
Throughout our second day we had even MORE door prizes!!



Cathi with a door prize from [Rosewood Manor](#)



Cathy with a door prize from [Bush Mountain Stitchery](#)



Deb with a door prize from [Rosewood Manor](#)



Charlene with a door prize from [Bush Mountain Stitchery](#)



Chris with a door prize from [123Stitch](#)



Donna with a door prize from [With My Needle](#)



Chris with a door prize from a Mystery Donor



Lenore with a \$25 Gift Certificate from [123Stitch](#)



Kathy with a door prize from a Mystery Donor



Linda with a door prize from [Rosewood Manor](#)



Ruth with a door prize from [Rosewood Manor](#)



Stephanie with a door prize from [Bush Mountain Stitchery](#)



Linda with a door prize from [Victoria Sampler](#)



Sandy with a door prize from [With My Needle](#)



Ellen with a door prize from a Mystery Donor



Terre with a door prize from a Mystery Donor



Lisa with a door prize from a Mystery Donor



Marietta with a \$25 Gift Certificate from [123Stitch](#)

And we shopped.....



And ate.....



On our last night together, we had a fantastic session of Show 'n Tell! We are SO talented!















Jen, Thea and Sue



We were all thankful for the wonderful time we had together at the Thanksgiving Retreat! ♥

Read what some of the attendees had to say about it!

Thank you, Sue, for putting on such a great class with Thea. It was a wonderful time to spend my 50th Wedding Anniversary with such wonderful women who love cross stitch. ~ Sandy B.

I was so glad that I was able to be part of this group. Thea did a wonderful job teaching us not to fear cutting our fabric. Thank you, Sue, for a great retreat. ~ Chris S.

Just love Thea's classes ... and the opportunity to spend time with fellow stitchers. Until next time - happy stitching! ~ Linda M.

Thank you for an excellent time. ~ Ruth H.

First time at Stitcher's Hideaway and had a wonderful time. Loved meeting everyone. ~ Teresa Falicon

Thanks again Sue for a wonderful time! You're such a sweet and fun person, and I was glad to get to know you, and eat wonderful food with you and Thea lol. Great class and had a blast.. hope to see everyone again next year. ~ Debbie K.

Fun times at Stitcher's Hideaway! Nice seeing familiar faces and meeting new stitchers! Thanks again Sue for another great retreat and to Thea for another beautiful design! ~ Linda M.

Arrived home late yesterday afternoon. and am taking a bit of time off today. I had a wonderful time with everyone and am so grateful to have been able to share my Thanksgiving Sampler with you all! Well done organizing this Sue! ~ Thea Dueck

It was an extra special retreat, where many wonderful memories of time spent with stitching friends, our favorite Sue Donnelly and our special Thea Dueck, teaching us to stitch her gorgeous Thanksgiving Sampler. God bless all of you, and we hope that you all enjoy a very Happy Thanksgiving! ~ Kathy & Bruce

It was such a pleasure being part of your stitching group this week. I saw some old friends, made new ones and had a ball talking with everyone, they're all so friendly. It was great to meet you Sue! Thanks for putting together a great class :)

Great three days in Old Sturbridge with the whole group at Stitcher's Hideaway! ~ Patti

Thank you and Jen for another wonderful stitching experience! I am so glad my grand-daughter made an early appearance, and I was able to come. Thea is such a lovely person and great teacher; the piece is beautiful. I will likely still be working on it at Winter Escape – to which I am already looking forward. I appreciate all you do to make our days stitching, eating, and visiting so pleasant! Best, Stephanie

Thanks so much for a wonderful retreat! I felt so much better after this one learning the techniques for Thea's pieces. When I went to the one in Mystic I was so confused. This time I feel great about what I learned. I have just such a great time at your retreats. Thank you for making that happen. ~ Ellen

Sue, thank you for a wonderful stitching experience. I learned so much. ~ Linda D.

I thoroughly enjoyed another fantastic retreat - my second with Thea as the teacher. Her patience and encouragement really went a long way to contributing to a fun time. Sue's attention to detail and her wit are more reasons to attend these retreats. It's so much fun looking forward to seeing familiar faces and new ones. The shop in the back of the classroom is such a temptation. The Publick Inn is a wonderful venue and Chris takes care of us there. I am thrilled that Stitcher's Hideaway will continue with Jen at the helm and Sue in the passenger seat. I only discovered this group about 3 years ago and I would be sad if it dissolved - but, not to worry about that! Thanks again for another terrific and special time with everyone! ~ Lenore D.



Lenore (above) was referring to my retirement next March – but that Stitcher's Hideaway retreats will continue when Jen Cane takes over! Jen has been helping me behind the scenes for years. Next year she will lead and I'll help her! It's perfect!



Sue & Jen

See you at a retreat!

Sue & Jen