

# *A Mystic Summer Retreat Fun Report*

**Class Instructor Amy Bruecken  
of Amy Bruecken Designs  
June 2018 in Mystic, CT**

We certainly had the feel of summer sand and ocean breeze with this retreat project! This was thanks to the beautiful Summer Sampler and accessories designed by our wonderful instructor, Amy Bruecken.



Accessories: Whale Tale Scissors Fob and Crab Pincushion



We arrived early Sunday to set-up for a dessert reception. It's so much fun hearing everyone as they arrive – all the excited greetings as they see familiar faces and meet new stitchers!





The next morning, we were all excited and ready to start on our sampler. Amy surprised us with these beautiful, custom-made project bags!

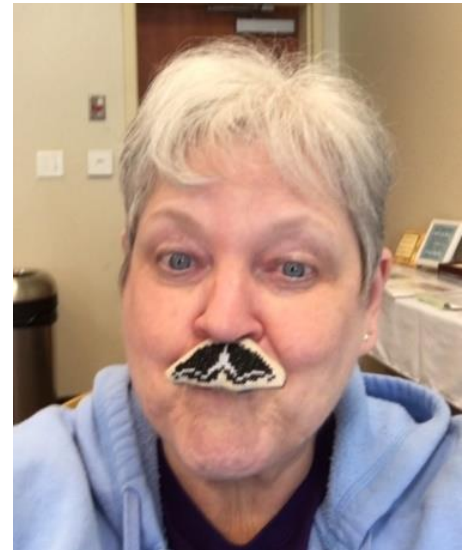




The first piece we worked on in class was the Whale Tail Scissor Fob. After we stitched the detailed whale tail, Amy taught us how to shape, fasten and sew our scissor fob using a lovely matching fabric for the back. She also provided each of us with charming sea creatures and beautiful hued floral beads, along with embroidery scissors for our fob!



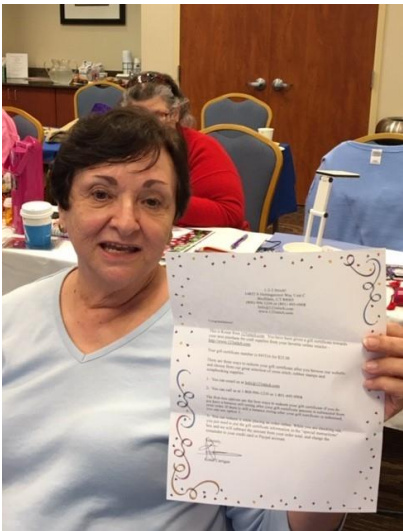
Sue modeling alternate uses for our whale tail fob!



The next project was the adorable crab pin keep. The design, in gorgeous red and orange threads with a sweet red heart, was a fun, quick stitch. Some folks even did versions of yellow and blue crabs, the latter being a nod to our local blue crab population. It was such fun to have two projects to take home completely finished!



Later that evening, we enjoyed a delicious meal of chicken parmigiana, risotto cakes, fresh salad from Coastal Caterers (Mystic Market) followed by delicious desserts. After supper, we retired back to our stitching room for a fun stitching exchange and door prizes! Wonderful door prizes were donated by [123 Stitch](#), [Elizabeth's Designs](#), [Kreinik](#), [Rosewood Manor](#), [Victoria Sampler](#), and [With My Needle](#).



Sandy with door prize from [123 Stitch](#)



Pat with door prize from [Victoria Sampler](#)



Leslie with door prize from [Kreinik](#)



Judy with door prize from [123 Stitch](#)



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



Chris with door prize from [Victoria Sampler](#)



Leslie with door prize from [Elizabeth's Designs](#)



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



Sandy with door prize from [Victoria Sampler](#)

We also had a summer-themed stitching exchange with some amazingly creative gifts!



Darlene



Jen



Nancy



Chris



Judy & Sue



Pat



Leslie



Exchange Gifts



Sue H.

Our second day began with folks working on the Seaside Sampler which featured Mystic's own lighthouse. The blue hand-dyed linen was a lovely background for the bright white of the lighthouse. The alphabet design in alternating colors kept us all busy. For a splash of fun, a whale tail, colorful fish and a blue wool felt hydrangea rounded out the design



And, of course, we had a lot of fun joking around!

Then there was the **Stash Enhancement** throughout the day from Amy's Trunk Show - and this is just a sampling! She has so much more on her website: [Amy Bruecken Designs](http://AmyBrueckenDesigns.com)



And Stitcher's Hideaway also had their boutique!



After a delicious lunch, Amy introduced the class to her frame painting technique using chalk paint. For this project, she used a base coat of light blue. Once dried, she applied a thin layer of off-white chalk paint which was also left to dry. Amy then used soft sandpaper to gently rub the chalk paint off the edges and scattered areas of the frame to give it a weathered look. The final touch involved taking a paint dauber and adding sand-colored dots artistically placed around the frame. We all looked forward to finishing our samplers and framing them in our own custom-made frames!





Amy applying the base coat of paint



Now applying the chalk paint over the base coat



A little sanding to reveal the color beneath



A final touch of color!

Sue Donnelly created not one but two beautiful summer-themed designs for the retreat attendees!



The evening concluded with a show-and-tell of projects brought by several stitchers. And of course, we couldn't forget more door prizes!



The fun continued the day after the retreat because we added an optional Lighthouse cruise aboard the Cross-sound Ferry's Seajet! We visited many lighthouses along the Connecticut, Rhode Island and Long Island coasts. Included in our tour was the Mystic Lighthouse, which was the inspiration for Amy's Summer Sampler. We enjoyed the leisurely sail back to conclude a lovely seaside themed retreat!



Cruise Group



Lighthouse



Amy, Bill, Leslie and Bill



Eileen and friends



Judy & Pat



Eileen finished a project on the cruise!



Amy & Bill



Race Rock Lighthouse



Leslie & Bill



Sue & Michael



Latimer Reef Lighthouse



Jen and Barbara

It was such a pleasure to meet Amy, to see all the colorful designs in her trunk show, and to learn so many things from her! Thank you SO much Amy!!

See you at a retreat soon!

Jen