

Stitchers Hidzaway!

Kindred Spirits ONE

with Ellen Chester of With My Needle
Sturbridge, MA – October 2016

Fun Report



The demand for this retreat was so great that two Kindred Spirits Retreats were held a week apart! Both took place at the Publick House Historic Inn in Sturbridge, MA.

Ellen Chester's project for us was her Kindred Spirits Shaker Carrier. In addition to the carrier, the project included a luscious silk-ribbon-embellished needleroll, a pin cube, a scissors holder, a pipkin, and an optional ruler holder.

Ellen taught us a variety of stitches, including Algerian eye, alternating double backstitch, closed herringbone, cross stitch over one linen thread, diamond eyelet, eyelet, four-sided, herringbone, mosaic, nun's stitch, Rhodes, rice, satin, Smyrna cross, tent, tied half-Rhodes, tied herringbone, triple cross and Williamsburg stitch! Wow! We learned a lot!! She also guided us through all the finishing instructions we needed to complete the project. Her written instructions were excellent, but how wonderful to learn directly from her during our two days of classes!

At the first retreat attendees came from CA, CO, CT, FL, MA, ME, NJ, NY, PA, RI, VA and Canada

They were very excited and eagerly awaiting the doors to open to begin their stitching fun! I wish you could all have heard the volume of everyone talking as stitching buddies greeted each other and new friendships began!



Once they entered the classroom they found a Stitcher's Hideaway Fun Pack waiting for them filled with generous goodies donated by Bush Mountain Stitchery & Framing, Elizabeth's Designs, Kreinik, Morning Glory Needleworks, Rosewood Manor, Samplers and Such, Stitchers Hideaway, Tempting Tangles, Udder Cream, Victoria Sampler, and Weeks Dye Works.

Bush Mountain Stitchery had set up shop for us right there in our classroom. We had an hour of free time to get settled in and some immediately started shopping! Because, you know, there might someday be a stash famine and we must get all we need right now!!

Soon it was time to settle down for our class to begin. OH BOY!!!

We each received our kits with a generous cut of 36-count linen, beautiful silk threads, duponi silk, overdyed silk ribbons, cat's eye beads, a custom-made bee marking pin, and our stunning tiger maple divided carrier! There's nothing quite like opening up a brand new project kit!

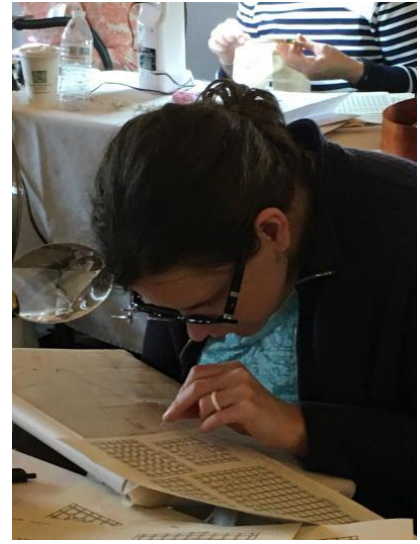
Our class time was devoted to working on the six-sided pinkeep, which used the stitches we would need to complete the project. Ellen was very patient as she guided us through each step.





Look at how deep in concentration we were!







Ellen and Sue



Ellen helping Connie



Throughout the retreat lucky recipients received generous door prizes from 123Stitch, Bush Mountain Stitchery & Framing, Morning Glory Needleworks, Praiseworthy Stitches, Rosewood Manor, Seraphim Hand Dyed Fabrics by Laurie, Stitchers Hideaway, Victoria Sampler, With My Needle, and Kathy Roseen & Linda Mosch, friends of Stitcher's Hideaway. There were also some absolutely amazing donations from an anonymous donor. Thank you all! What fun!



Door prize from With My Needle



Door prize from Bush Mountain Stitchery



Door prize from Rosewood Manor



Door prize from 123stitch!



Door prize from Stitchers Hideaway



Door prize from Praiseworthy Stitches



\$25 Gift Certificate from 123stitch!



Door prize from Seraphim Hand Dyed Fabrics by Laurie



Door prize from Victoria Sampler



Door prize from Rosewood Manor



Door prize from Morning Glory Needleworks



Door prize from an Anonymous Donor



Door prize from an Anonymous Donor



Door prize from an Anonymous Donor



Door prize from Morning Glory Needleworks

The door prizes just kept coming and coming! Donors, you added so much to our fun!!



As a part of our retreat we had a fantastic presentation by Rebecca Beall and Jean Contino of Old Sturbridge Village! They came in with sewing tools and accessories from the OSV collection -- it was wonderful!!!! To read about this presentation, go to [Constant Companions: Sewing Tools from the Old Sturbridge Village Collection.](#)

We had an optional stitching exchange, too. Whatever we stitched needed to be about friendship. It was so much fun to see what each person received. Here is a group photo of items exchanged.



They were all just wonderful, but one in particular had everyone's attention. It had the word friend in many different languages and was itsy bitsy stitched over an impossibly small count!



Oh -- and we also shopped, and shopped, and shopped!!





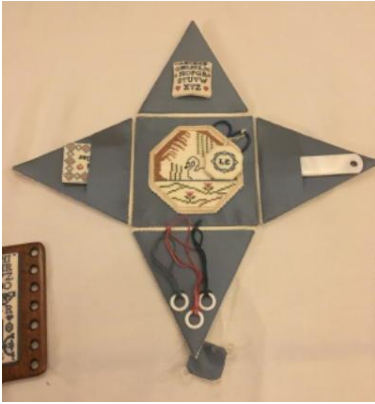
But just in case we didn't have enough stash -- HA! -- each attendee received a kit to make my latest little design "Friends are Flowers."

We had Show 'n Tell!!











And the door prizes just kept coming and coming!!



Door prize from With My Needle



Door prize from 123stitch



Door prize from 123stitch



Door prize from an Anonymous Donor



Door prize from 123stitch



Door prize from an Anonymous Donor



Door prizes from an anonymous donor



Door prize from Rosewood Manor



Door prize from an Anonymous Donor



Door prize from an Anonymous Donor



Door prize from Rosewood Manor



Door prize from 123Stitch



Door prize from 123Stitch



Door Prize from an Anonymous Donor



Door Prize from Bush Mountain Stitchery



Door Prize from an Anonymous Donor



At each retreat I give everyone the opportunity to bring in items for a shelter for battered women in Connecticut. This group of stitchers was extremely generous!

I received some sweet notes from some of the attendees. I just can't tell you how much it means to receive them!

"I had a very nice time at my first Stitcher's Hideaway retreat! Ellen is a wonderful teacher! The Publick House is the perfect spot to have your retreat. It was very easy to get to. The room was great and the food was delicious. Thank you for everything!" ~ Debbie E.

"In addition to the fun we had with Ellen Chester, I loved seeing the hotel decorated for Halloween, complete with the scary figures out in the yard. I really put me in a great holiday mood.

The food at the inn is so fabulous. Every meal was great - pot roast, salmon, wonderful desserts.

After we got started on our pieces, it was really fun to go outside on a beautiful warm autumn afternoon and sit stitching under trees that were all gold and orange.

Ellen gave us such good directions for stitching and finishing the carrier and accessories. I'm sure I'll be bringing them to the next retreat!" ~ Barbara G.

"Thanks for all of your hard work, Sue. It was a wonderful experience." ~ Debra B.

Happy Stitching!
Sue

[Read about the Kindred Spirits TWO Retreat](#)

[Read about the OSV Lecture: Constant Companions: Sewing Tools from the Old Sturbridge Village Collection.](#)

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