

## NEW MEMBER INFORMATION

We would like to take a moment to tell you about what we hope will be one of the most enriching experiences you will have. The Knoxville Tennessee Chapter of the Embroiderers' Guild of America is full of experience, learning, and friendship. There are few places where fellow needlework lovers can get together and discuss this passion, but the Knoxville Tennessee Chapter of the EGA certainly fills that spot.

You will probably hear several terms in connection with EGA that are unfamiliar to you. We have tried to list several of the terms, but if you hear something and it is not on the list, please don't hesitate to ask. We were all beginners at one time and there is no such things as a stupid question. Also, included are descriptions of events and opportunities available to members.

**Interest Group** This is a small learning group of stitchers who meet monthly at a regular day and time. Information about the various meetings will be published in the chapter newsletter. You may attend any of the interest group meetings that you desire, but it is usually a good idea to call the contact person in advance in case there are last minute changes or special supplies that you might need.

Some interest groups have planned activities and some interest groups just have stitching time together. Even if there is a planned project, you may always opt to bring your own stitching project to work on.

**Quarterly** This is a meeting of all the interest groups to update the members on the Knoxville Chapter activities and give everyone a chance to socialize with all the other members. We try to provide a program for each quarterly meeting as well as refreshments. In general, it is informative, a good time, and helps you get a better understanding of the workings of the Chapter as a whole. It is held quarterly—January, April, July, and October. Time and location are published in the chapter newsletter and in our yearbook. Currently the quarterly meeting is being held at 6:30 pm at Messiah Lutheran Church at the junction of Papermill Road and Kingston Pike (across from P. F. Chang's).

**Nametag** There is a chart for a chapter nametag (designed by Joan Easterly). Make one and wear it to meetings for easier identification and make you eligible for special drawings at quarterly meetings. Many people also make additional nametags that relate to special interests you may have developed. You will notice various pins attached to Guild members' nametags. One is our chapter pin, which should be included with this information—ask for one if it is not. Others are pins denoting various seminars, and events a chapter member has attended.

**Chapter Retreat** Retreats are weekend getaways for stitching, food, fun and fellowship. The fall retreat is usually held sometime in either September or October at Lake Junaluska Conference Center in Waynesville, NC, and the winter retreat is usually in January or February at the Carson Springs Conference Center in Newport, TN. Members come for the weekend to these charming and quiet facilities to take classes, eat wonderful meals prepared by the lodges' staff, and enjoy the fellowship of other chapter members. Each year the class and free time format might be different, but there is always ample time for learning, stitching, and socializing. Information about these retreats is published in the chapter newsletter well in advance, and a

modest registration fee includes two nights' lodging, five meals, and all supplies needed for your chosen class. You don't want to miss these.

**Yearbook** The yearbook has a brief history of the chapter, a statement of purpose, a listing of the Board of Directors and Interest Group Chairmen with their phone numbers, and a calendar of events. It also contains a directory of all the interest group members, and our by-laws.

**Websites** National EGA's website is [www.egausa.org](http://www.egausa.org). To access the Members Only section, contact Tanya Parks at EGA Headquarters (502) 589-6956.

The Knoxville Chapter's website is [www.knoxega.org](http://www.knoxega.org). Also check out our Facebook page at Embroiderers' Guild of America Knoxville Chapter.

## EDUCATION

The following are opportunities in which any member can participate:

**Group Correspondence Course (GCC)** These courses can be found in the Educational Supplement of EGA's *Needle Arts* publication. They provide the stitcher with a special opportunity to learn new needlework techniques or just brush up on your skills. The courses can be taken as a group through the Knoxville Chapter. The Knoxville Chapter's Education Director will announce which GCC is being offered currently to the members. You may then register for the course and pay the fees involved. The group registered for the GCC usually determine a time and place to stitch on the project.

**Individual Correspondence Course (ICC)** Students work from a teacher's written instructions and send their work for critique. Usually there are multiple lessons. If you find something when you receive your Educational Supplements (published annual and delivered with your *Needle Arts* magazine), or if you see something in particular that interests you, please ask your interest group leader or some other member for more information. They will be glad to help you.

**Workshop/Class** A Workshop and/or a Class are staged locally and are a bit more formal than the Interest Group meetings. This may be a one- or two-day session with a teacher having students work on a particular project. It usually requires preregistration and payment of class fees. They will be advertised in the chapter newsletter. If you hear about one that you are interested in, ask the Education Director if it is still open, sometimes there are extra spaces that can be filled. You can find the Education Director's telephone number in the listings for the Board of Directors in your yearbook.

**GCC Lightning Round** Any member may register for a GCC Lightning Round. See *Needle Arts* for offerings and details of registering. The registration forms and costs are included in *Needle Arts*.

**Share-A-Stitch** SAS is an annual regional seminar that features a host of classes and information sharing. Different chapters in the Tennessee Valley Region (region 5) host the Share-A-Stitch each year so the location moves around the region. It is usually held in June and

information concerning registration, etc. comes out in the spring. It is a fun event. Talk to some of those who have attended. And attended. It is addictive!

**National Seminar** Each year one of the EGA regions hosts a five-day seminar featuring needlework classes taught by exceptional faculty. Class descriptions and registration information are published in the March *Needle Arts*. It is similar to the regional Share-A-Stitch seminars and is held in different cities in the host region. Class descriptions and registration information are published in the March *Needle Arts*. This is a good opportunity to not only enjoy and learn from your fellow embroiderers but also to have the opportunity to travel and visit other areas of the country.

Well, this will probably only get your feet wet in the huge sea of information that is available through EGA. We want to encourage you to participate in chapter and guild activities. Please don't hesitate to ask about anything. We are all here to learn from each other.

Happy Stitching!