

Omaha Needle Artists, CH 141

The Embroiderer's Guild of America, Inc

Welcome to Omaha Needle Artists, EGA!

General information:

Omaha Needle Artists, EGA, is the local chapter of the Embroiderer's Guild of America, Inc. We are part of the Heartland Region. Annual dues of \$37 provide you with membership at the local, regional and national level. National membership includes quarterly copies of the NeedleArts magazine and an annual educational supplement that lists group and individual correspondence courses provided at the national level. Local membership includes bi-monthly newsletters, annual stitching retreats, occasional educational opportunities, and discounts at select vendors. Regional meetings are held semi-annually, and national meetings are annual. Members are free to participate in these meetings, and classes are often available to the general membership. For membership questions, please contact the Membership Liaison, Kelly Saunders, at kellyannab@cox.net.

Meetings:

Daytime: The daytime meetings are held at the All Saints Episcopal Church on 95th and Blondo on the first Tuesday of every month. The easiest way to find the classroom is to enter the church on the east side of the building and go through the office, down a couple of steps, then listen -- you'll hear the laughter. The meetings begin at 10 AM and consist of updates on business items, introductions, show and tell, and programs. Some examples of past programs include a patriotic heart, teneriffe lace, Assisi, double-sided cross stitch, framing and finishing techniques, sampler stitches, needlepoint and judging. The daytime ladies will often bring a lunch, and stay for a couple of hours' stitch-in. Make sure to bring something to work on and for show and tell!

Evenings: The evening meetings are held at the same location on the first Monday of every month. We do meet on holidays, but if schools are called off due to bad weather we will cancel the meeting. The meeting begins at 7PM; however people usually start showing up around 6:30 to chat and stitch before the meeting. We meet in the big conference room in the Sunday school area. The format is roughly the same as the day group, and we've been having a lot of the same programs. Again, bring something to work on, and something for show and tell.

Stitch-ins:

Daytime: As mentioned above, the daytime meeting extends into a stitch-in after the formal program. Members also have a scheduled stitch-in on the third Tuesday of the month, same time and location.

Evening: There is a stitch-in at Borders on 72nd and Dodge on the third Monday of the month. Borders sets up tables and chairs for us upstairs in the back of the store. People generally start showing up around 7 PM, and the group usually starts breaking up around 9. Feel free to stop and get a drink at the Café before coming up.

Retreat:

ONA participates in a multi-chapter annual spring retreat during the middle of March. The retreat is held at the Eastern Nebraska 4-H Center at Gretna, NE and usually runs Thursday through Sunday, with Thursday and Friday being "free" days (do your own thing) and classes available if desired (not required) all day Saturday and Sunday morning. Fees depend on how long you want to stay and what you want to do, and include lodging in heated cabins and some meals -- it will be your most inexpensive weekend stitching retreat ever! Participation is extremely flexible -- whatever works for your schedule, from the whole she-bang to coming for a Saturday class only!

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Projects/Outreach:

Chapter members are encouraged to be active participants in the many programs we have going, but you may participate at whatever level fits your schedule. Some examples of ongoing ONA activities include:

- Bi-annual showcase –here's your chance to show your stuff! Local chapter members generally display works created during the previous two years at the General Crook house during a weeklong showcase in June. 2007's showcase will be in the works soon – so keep your eyes on the newsletter for details.
- Annual Christmas tree decorations – every year ONA decorates a Christmas tree at the Crook House with hand stitched ornaments. Due dates are generally by the November meeting. The 2006 theme is 'Outdoorsy' – berries, flowers, wildlife, plants, etc.
- Summer reading program bookmarks – every year we provide hand-stitched bookmarks for the Public Library to use as rewards for its summer reading program. Due date is July meeting – the bookmarks are provided to the library at the end of July.
- County and state fair exhibits – every year we “show our stuff” at the Douglas County/River City Roundup and Nebraska State fairs. Volunteers show different stitching techniques during daytime and evening hours.
- Teaching opportunities – as requested, members will get a chance to introduce beginners to the wonderful world of stitching! We have done exhibits and classes at malls, libraries, and group homes, for children and adults. Contact our outreach coordinator if you know of any opportunities!

Library:

We also have an extensive library of stitching related books, booklets and articles. The librarian will often bring items of interest (for example, patterns for Dodge house ornaments or fund-raiser related) to meetings for free monthly checkout, and will bring other items from the library on request. A comprehensive list is available from the librarian (check the newsletter for details) and is distributed periodically. Contact the librarian, Judi Busboom, at busboom@tconl.com for library-related information.

Education:

Check the newsletter or website for details. There are currently several people interested in various Group Correspondence courses – once we get a group together we'll get started on the next one. Or check the Education Catalog or national website for details (www.egausa.org) as there are several Online Correspondence Courses also available. Contact KristyHalseth at khaltheth@dccorr.com for other education requests.

Website:

Check out our great website at www.orgsites.com/ne/omahaneedleartists for updates and more information!