

# We Be People...stitch



## Retreat 2026 sponsored by the Needlework Guild of Minnesota

In July, the USA will celebrate the 250th anniversary of the Declaration of Independence. In that document, a group of men proclaimed our unalienable rights to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness, which for us includes stitching. That's too long for a theme, so how 'bout "We the people...stitch" paraphrased from the Constitution.

Retreat 2026 will take place August 12-15, 2026 at the Crowne Plaza Minneapolis West. We will enjoy five meeting rooms with outside windows. Retreat registration fee includes the opportunity of four days of class mixed and matched with free time to work independently on projects. Independent study will have two large rooms with clusters of tables. If our attendee numbers are high enough, we could expand into a lovely, large ballroom. Our favorite events of stitchers' showcase, stash reallocation, and shopping will be right in the midst of our meeting rooms. During our four-day stay we have full control of the meeting rooms, so everyone will be able to stitch at all hours and leave supplies in the stitching rooms.



The retreat fee includes 11 meals, beginning with Wednesday breakfast and ending with Saturday lunch and snacks. The complete meal package applies to all retreat attendees.

Breakfast buffet of two hot items, hot oatmeal, pastries, fruit, yogurt, etc. will be out from 7-8:30 a.m. each day. This buffet will be just outside our meeting rooms, with one room designated for eating. Beverages including coffee, tea, juices and soft drinks are available continuously throughout the day. According to hotel rules, no outside food or beverages may be brought into this area.

Lunch will be a chef's choice buffet that includes soup, salad, grill item, two hot entrees, vegetables, desserts, etc. Healthy, savory and sweet treats will be available for afternoon break. Dinners are smaller buffet style meals. Lunch and dinner will be enjoyed in the Europa dining room.





Staying overnight in the hotel is an inviting option. Hotel check-in time on Tuesday is 3:00 and staying through Saturday night is a possibility. Number of days is an individual decision. Evening meals on Tuesday and Saturday will be on your own. The hotel has many amenities, including swimming pool, whirlpool, massages by appointment, walking paths, fitness classes, racquetball, tennis courts, etc. Our group rate is \$99 per night plus tax.

### **Hotel rooms may be booked now with the following instructions:**

1. Do not use your phone for booking. Tablet or larger is preferred.
2. Scan the QR code OR click [Needlework Guild of Minnesota Retreat](#) to get to the hotel website.
3. Enter arrival and departure date, number of guests, skip Rate Preference and click “Search” and the group rate will populate.
4. Select a room type and complete the reservation.



If you have a roommate, there is a link to “*Add guest name*” so you can name your roommate. If you would like to request a room location, e.g. near the elevator, there is a link to “*Add a Special Request*”. For hotel booking questions or problems, contact [Lynda.Ellingson@CPplymouth.com](mailto:Lynda.Ellingson@CPplymouth.com) (763-559-6274)

### ***Important Dates***

Membership renewal is available now

Registration begins now

Hotel booking available now

**May 15:** Cissy Bailey Smith’s class registrations close

**June 5:** Kim Sanders’ class registrations close

**June 10:** Last day to cancel for full refund (less \$25 processing fee)

**July 15:** Stephanie Burnham’s class and Independent Study registration closes

Early July: confirmation details become available

**July 16:** Last day to cancel for partial refund

**July 20:** Deadline for booking hotel rooms at group rate

**August 11:** Optional check into hotel. Teachers arrive.

**August 12:** breakfast available beginning at 7 a.m., classes at 9:00



## *Volunteer Opportunities*

### **Retreat Buddy**

Each first time retreat attendee may choose to be assigned a retreat buddy. Duties include contacting the first-timer prior to retreat to answer any questions, greeting her at the retreat site, giving a guided tour of the facility, introducing her to other attendees.

### **Teacher Airport Transportation**

Two teachers will need to be picked up at the airport on Tuesday, August 11. One teacher needs to return to the airport Friday morning and one teacher flies out Sunday, August 16. Exact times are unknown at this time.

**Greeters, indoors and outdoors;** Tuesday afternoon and evening, Wednesday early morning - Lynn Kindem taking the lead

We are at a new location. Everyone will need directions! Outside greeters will meet cars as they approach the parking ramp to direct folks on the best place to unload. Inside greeters will help people unload cars and suggest other convenient entrances to our stitching location. Greeters may also watch over unloaded belongings while attendees are registering at the hotel, etc.

### **Class Angel**

The class angel will assist the teacher in classroom setup, making announcements in regard to rules of the classroom, reminding teacher and students about break times, etc. The angel duties assist the retreat chairs by taking attendance, making daily announcements, etc.

**Stash Reallocation** - Carmen Nordback, coordinator

Every year we have an abundance of donated needlework stash that tends to consume any space that it is allotted! Volunteers are needed to keep the area neat and loosely sort the treasures into categories. This is an ongoing check-in volunteer duty and not stationed at the post.

**Stitchers' Showcase** - Astrid Weidling in charge

Several shifts of volunteers are needed for our exhibit and will be asked to assist with the following: moving tables and chairs, taking in items, helping with entry forms, and assisting with creating the display. In addition, volunteers will monitor the display room while the Stitchers' Showcase is open.



## **Retreat 2026 Policies - The Fine Print**

### **Retreat Definition**

Retreat is a residential stitching event available to all members of the Guild.

Retreat provides an opportunity for members to take classes from well-known teachers and/or to work independently on projects. Teaching fees are spread equally over all attendees, whether they take classes or not.

Classes by professional teachers are held Wednesday through Saturday, and are expected to provide learning experiences that go beyond the usual monthly Guild programming.

### **Retreat Budget, Income, and Expenses**

Retreat should be priced to break even. It is not subsidized by the Guild and is not intended as a source of revenue for the Guild. For Retreat 2026, the Susan L. Tesmer Trust Fund is subsidizing all costs associated with Cissy Bailey Smith and Susan L. Tesmer Memorial Funds will cover Stephanie Burnham expenses.

### **Retreat Fees**

The basic registration fee of \$555 covers the costs for Retreat from Wednesday through Saturday and includes:

- a participation fee that covers everything except kit fees
- four breakfasts (Wednesday through Saturday)
- four lunches (Wednesday through Saturday), and
- three suppers (Wednesday through Friday)

Options for payment include via PayPal or by check - full amount or two half payments.

Check(s) shall be mailed upon invoice. If paying with two half payments, the second check will be cashed July 16, 2026.

### **Registration Policies**

All registration must be done online through the Guild website. Assistance in registering will be provided for those without online access.

A registrant must be a member of the Guild at the time of registration and at the time of Retreat.

Registrants may not enroll in more than one class in any given time period.

Retreat registration for classes closes on May 15, June 5 or July 15 depending on the teacher; July 15, 2026 for independent study. Check the **Important Dates** section for details.

Class and Independent Study assignments, along with additional information about Retreat, will be sent to registrants in a confirmation email in July.

For Retreat 2026, the deadline for booking a hotel room with the group rate is July 20, 2026.

### **Retreat Registration Cancellation Policy**

All refund requests must be made in writing, either by USPS or by email.

Registrants who cancel by June 10, 2026 will receive a full refund minus a processing fee of \$25. These refunds should be processed by July 1, 2026.


Registrants who cancel after June 10, 2026 but on or prior to July 16, 2026 will receive a half refund minus a processing fee of \$25.

Any decision about issuing refunds for cancellations received after June 10, 2026 will be made by the NGM Board after the conclusion of Retreat.

No refund will be issued for a cancellation request after July 16, 2025.

If a teacher has been paid by the Guild for a kit, but declines to release it to a registrant who canceled, the registrant's kit fees are not refundable.

Exceptions to these policies will be considered only in the event of unforeseeable emergencies such as illness or death in the registrant's family.



**August 12 - 15, 2026**  
Four days of stitching, 11 meals - \$555  
Crowne Plaza Minneapolis West - \$99 per night plus tax  
3131 Campus Drive  
Plymouth, MN 55441

## Meet Our Retreat Teachers

### *Cissy Bailey Smith*

Cissy joined the Embroiderers' Guild of America in 1977 and obtained a teaching certification in Canvaswork from the Valentine Museum in Richmond, Virginia a few years later. She served EGA in many ways over the years and was elected to the National Board and served as Carolinas Region Director for four years.

Cissy's love of samplers began when a Scarlet Letter Sampler Catalog appeared in her mailbox while she was living in Tampa, Florida. She was often found by the pool watching her children swim as she stitched samplers for Scarlet Letter customers.

As her appreciation for samplers grew, Cissy began collecting antique samplers and antique sewing accessories such as needlebooks, pin cushions, sewing boxes, sewing bags, spool holders, needle rolls, and sewing shoes. Many of the antique Smalls in Cissy's collection were made by members of Shaker communities and she has a large collection of Scottish made Mauchline Ware.

Cissy started designing professionally in 2003 and has enjoyed using the shapes of her antique sewing collectibles to create adaptations of the antiques as teaching projects. Self-lined projects are her favorites because they can easily be finished and are precise in construction.

Her designs have been featured in several publications for EGA, Sampler & Antique Needlework Quarterly, and Just Cross Stitch magazine over many years.

Cissy presents interactive lectures and teaches in person and on Zoom. Her students have come from needlework seminars, sampler guilds, Embroiderers' Guild Chapters, museums, and needlework shops across the United States and in England.

You can see Cissy's sampler reproductions and designs in hard copy and pdf formats on her website: [www.gentlepursuitdesigns.com](http://www.gentlepursuitdesigns.com) and her You Tube Videos can be found at Cissy's Gentle Pursuit Designs.



## ***Kim Sanders***



Kim Sanders's teaching style is relaxed and encouraging. She loves embroidery and relishes the opportunity to share knowledge with students. Class lecture includes tips for better stitching and often some of the history of the class's technique. Kim is an EGA-certified teacher in Crewel and Surface Embroidery and a Master Craftsman in Surface Embroidery and Smocking. She has taught at national and regional seminars, guilds, and shops as well as an Independent and several Group Correspondence Courses for The Embroiderers' Guild of America. Her designs have been published in *Australian Smocking & Embroidery*, *Needle Arts*, and *Inspirations*.

## ***Stephanie Burnham***

Stephanie comes from a textile background but after discovering Beadwork she has never looked back. She has taught beading for many years in the UK and Europe and in 2006 was also invited to teach 9 classes on a workshop tour of Japan.

In 2009, Stephanie opened 'the Bead Scene Studio' selling all things bead related including teaching an extensive workshop programme. She then decided to close the studio in 2018 to concentrate much more on Designing and Teaching started whilst in the studio.

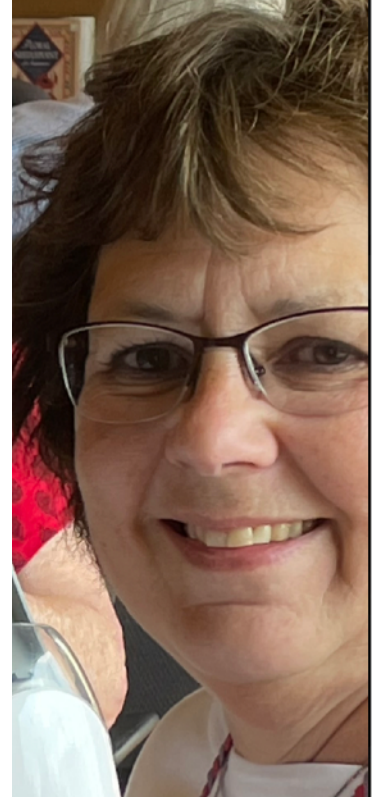
She has written six beading books and has also worked on live craft channels.

During the last 5 years, Stephanie has really enjoyed working on zoom from her home in the UK as she feels it such a great vehicle for teaching, especially the live up close demonstrations, screen sharing and being able to connect with students from around the world.



## ***Carmen Nordback***

Carmen started her passion for handwork at the age of 9 when her mom taught her to knit to develop patience. She went on to learn how to do all the things she could with a needle and thread and a sewing machine. The quilting bug bit along the way. In addition to piecing, she had a desire to learn how to applique. After trying many methods of applique, she was exposed to prepared edge applique in an introductory class taught by Karen Boe. Constantly learning and trying new things has allowed Carmen to challenge herself with this technique. Carmen's quilts have won awards at various quilt shows in the US. Two of her quilts were also a part of the 2024 and 2025 American Quilter's Society Quilt Art Engagement Calendar. In addition to applique Carmen also enjoys precision piecing and still finds a little time to stitch when she's not quilting.



Cissy Bailey Smith  
Wednesday 1/2 day a.m.

## ***In My Heart Needle Book & Scissor Sheath***

Kit fee \$115

We are going to have a lovely time together in August and you can hold it close in your hearts as you create this beautiful self-lined needle book and scissor sheath duo.

The luscious Swan Bay Longburn linen, six Au Ver A Soie 100.3 silk spools, and gold and silver Accentuate will have you humming as you place thirteen different stitches into the 3.5" W x 3"H scissor sheath and 4" W x 5"H self-lined needle book.

Finishing is simple using silk ribbons, small buttons, and my self-lined technique. Pellon, Skirtex, and wool felt are included in the kits.

Bring usual stitching supplies and paper scissors.



Cissy Bailey Smith  
Wednesday 1/2 day p.m.

## *Margaret's Holdall & Pin Wheel*

Kit fee \$113

Step back in time to 1795 with Margaret Mutter and her Sampler from the Museum of Early Southern Decorative Arts.



I borrowed motifs from the sampler to design this 7" W x 4"H self-lined Holdall and Pin Wheel.

The Holdall has an inner pocket that is just large enough to tuck your heart shaped Pin Wheel, embroidery Scissors, and threads into and it is secured with the softest of silk ribbons.

We will use Cedar River Pyrite linen, 11 colors of Needle Point Inc. silks and one spool of Au Ver A Soie 100.3 to create the projects as we incorporate seven stitches into the design.

Finishing the Holdall is a snap with my self-lined technique and kits will include Pellon and Skirtex.

A copy of the sampler that I have reproduced for MESDA is included in the kit. Bring usual stitching supplies.

Cissy Bailey Smith  
Thursday 1/2 day a.m.

### ***Updated Red House Patriotic Etui***

Kit fee \$95

The Red House Patriotic Etui is a self-lined design stitched on 37 count Wild Honey Legacy Linen with 10 colors of Au Ver A Soie 100.3 silk threads and a bit of gold Accentuate. Before folding up and finishing the charming etui is about 9 inches wide and 10 inches tall. The interior features a scissor sheath and a needle book. These were made from a plain suede like fabric in the original model. This fabric was no longer available so

Cissy has just created 11 patriotic needlework designs for us to select from! You may choose up to 3 of these patterns for your scissor sheath and up to 3 for your needle book! Linen, silk threads, Accentuate, silk ribbon, and iron on Pellon will be included in the kits.

Go to <http://retreat2026.jane-t.online> to see the new designs.

Bring paper scissors to class to cut out your models.



### ***Useful Antique Tools & Treasures***

Lecture - Thursday p.m. 2 hours

I have been collecting antique sewing tools for many years because I was charmed by the thought that someone two hundred or more years ago took the time to make something special to tuck inside her own sewing box or created a Small Token of Affection for a friend. In this lecture we will explore sewing accessories from handmade and humble to factory made and fabulous! We will look at needlebooks and pinwheels, shoes and reticules, Shaker made pieces and Scottish Mauchline Ware and will end with Sewing Boxes, small and large. My finest fitted sewing box held a small surprise inside.

Kim Sanders  
Wednesday-Thursday all day

### *Silk Ribbon Smalls*

Kit fee \$75

Silk Ribbon Smalls is a suite of four accessories for the embroiderer: a pincushion, scissors keep, port container and needle book. All materials required to finish the pieces are included in the kit.

The first part of this class focuses on silk ribbon embroidery stitches and related surface stitches. The embroidery is also garnished with seed beads. The second portion of the class will be devoted to finishing techniques such as lacing, making cord, applying it and stuffing a three-dimensional object smoothly.

Embroidery will focus on the scissors keep. Many, if not all, of the students will probably complete the scissors keep embroidery in class and may even complete assembling it leaving only the cord application to be done at home. Who wouldn't love to go home from Retreat with something almost done!!!



Kim Sanders  
Friday-Saturday all day

### *Crewel Necessities Huswife*

Kit fee \$90

An intermediate level crewel embroidery suitable for those with familiarity with basic surface stitches like chain and outline. No previous crewel embroidery experience necessary. The huswife assembles the most frequently used embroidery tools in an easy to transport organizer.



Exterior view

Interior view



Stephanie Burnham  
Friday-Saturday Zoom 1/2 day a.m.

## ***Holly and Noel***

Kit fee \$100

Holly is skating into Winter with her lovely Red outfit and fur muff to keep her warm.

Noel is so excited for his date with Holly.

He's all wrapped up in this chunky jumper, holly hat and scarf ready to skate the night away.

This is an intermediate project with techniques including Brick, Peyote & Herringbone stitch.

Quite a lot of size 15 seed beads are used so it can feel quite fiddly at times but so enjoyable to bead.



Techniques include: Peyote, Brick & Herringbone stitch.

Kit fee includes beads, thread and other materials for both figures and 28 pages of color printed instructions.

Kits will be assembled locally to avoid shipping charges and tariffs.

Carmen Nordback  
Friday 1/2 day p.m.

## *Prepared Edge Applique*

Let me share my passion for applique with you in this demonstration type class. During this class I'll demonstrate the prepared edge applique method that I use and discuss two additional methods. We'll cover the supplies used, the technique for making the shapes and how to stitch the shapes in place. I'll share many hints, tips and tricks that make this a very achievable applique method.

A handout will be provided.



## Preparation for Registration

	Wed	Thur	Fri	Sat
<b>Class Sessions</b>				
Room A a.m.	Kim Sanders <i>Silk Ribbon Smalls</i>	Kim Sanders <i>Silk Ribbon Smalls</i>	Kim Sanders <i>Crewel necessities</i> <i>Huswife</i>	Kim Sanders <i>Crewel necessities</i> <i>Huswife</i>
Room A p.m.	<i>Silk Ribbon Smalls</i>	<i>Silk Ribbon Smalls</i>	<i>Crewel necessities</i> <i>Huswife</i>	<i>Crewel necessities</i> <i>Huswife</i>
Room B a.m.	Cissy Bailey Smith <i>In My Heart Needle Book</i> & <i>Scissor Sheath</i>	Cissy Bailey Smith <i>Red House</i> <i>Patriotic Etui</i>	Stephanie Burnham <i>Holly &amp; Noel</i>	Stephanie Burnham <i>Holly &amp; Noel</i>
Room B p.m.	Cissy Bailey Smith <i>Margaret's Holdall</i> & <i>Pin Wheel</i>	Cissy Bailey Smith <i>Antique Tools Lecture</i>	Carmen Nordback <i>Prepared Edge</i> <i>Appliqué</i>	

Study the schedule and make your choices carefully. If you take a two day class from above the black line, you can't register for any conflicting class or independent study for those days from below the black line.

If you take half day classes, you will fill in blank timeslots with independent study.

The Stephanie Burnham beading class is on two mornings, so you would be able to take Carmen's class and fill in with independent study.

Stephanie's class is via Zoom and we will use the hotel's media facilities. You do not need a computer.

More information and pictures are at <http://retreat2026.jane-t.online>.

Fill out your choices here before going online to register.

Wednesday a.m. \_\_\_\_\_ p.m. \_\_\_\_\_

Thursday a.m. \_\_\_\_\_ p.m. \_\_\_\_\_

Friday a.m. \_\_\_\_\_ p.m. \_\_\_\_\_

Saturday. a.m. \_\_\_\_\_ p.m. \_\_\_\_\_