

This Newsletters Date is: 30-Dec-16

Hi stitching friends,

Here we are at the close of another year! Did you meet your stitching goals for the year? Several people have given me the total number of projects that they have stitched this year. I have never thought to count how many I complete. I do more small projects so it hardly seems fair to compare them to the masterpieces that many of you complete! Maybe I can count my completed projects in 2017.

Our What's New Page has been updated for the final time this year. You can see the latest at <http://houseofstitches.com/whatsnew.cfm>. There are fun new designs from Abby Rose, Country Cottage Needleworks, Sue Hillis, My Big Toe, Little House Needleworks, Mirabilia and more! Several of the designs have winter themes that are perfect for stitching on long, cold evenings.

The week before Christmas my daughter and I went to the Dressing Downton Afternoon Tea and exhibit of Downton Abbey costumes at the History Museum in South Bend. (Special thanks go to her husband Erik for the tickets!) The tea was lovely and the costumes were unbelievable. The exhibit runs through January 8 if you have a chance to get to South Bend. The embroidery and beadwork are amazing! When we reached the end of the costume exhibit we saw a beautifully decorated Christmas tree. Upon closer examination we realized that it was covered with hand stitched ornaments! The South Bend chapter of the EGA (Embroiderers' Guild of America) made all of the beautiful ornaments. I will put a photo of the tree on our blog and Facebook so you can admire it, too!

Make your stitching plans for 2017 and let us know what supplies you need. We know how you like to organize and plan at the beginning of a new year! Thank you for your continued patronage; we look forward to serving your cross stitch needs in 2017.

Happy stitching and Happy New Year!
Linda

This Newsletters Date is: 14-Dec-16

Hi, stitching friends!

December is rolling on and most of us still have plenty to accomplish before the big day. I have decided that Lizzie Kate's new Inspiration Boxer kit sums it up: "I am only one, but I am one. I cannot do everything, but I can do something." Now the trick is deciding which things to do and which things to delegate or just let go! One of the things I hope you will do is visit our newly updated What's New page at <http://www.houseofstitches.com/whatsnew.cfm> . It will give you a breather from the hustle and bustle and maybe provide a few gift ideas for your stitching friends or yourself! All kinds of needleworkers can use a new pair of scissors. The new limited edition Sawyer scissors from Gingher will add a bright touch to a sewing basket with their pretty red and white design. Kelmscott Designs new needle minders will do the same. Holiday Hang-Ups - Joy from Bent Creek is a complete kit (just add a needle) that will fit nicely in a stocking. The long-awaited designs from Lizzie Kate are in stock. You should probably have one of each because it will be too hard to choose only one or two! We continue to receive classic Prairie Schooler designs that are being reprinted by Hoffman Distributing. You can have them without paying unrealistic prices on eBay! I have brought a couple of stitched models back to the shop so you can see how timeless the designs really are. There are many other great new charts-check them out and tell us which ones need to be added to your collection!

I will not keep you from your appointed tasks too long! I hope you can find time for a few stitches now and then; we all know it helps improve our grip on sanity. I probably will not write to you again until after Christmas so this comes with all of our best wishes for a very Merry Christmas and happy, healthy, stitching New Year!

Happy stitching,
Linda

This Newsletters Date is: 02-Dec-16

Hi, stitching friends!

Here we are at the last month of the year! Already!! Only a few weeks and we will have more daylight hours. We have been hearing rumors of above average snow and below average temperatures. So, we should consider ourselves warned and stock up on stitching supplies now! We have the perfect place for you to begin your search for new projects! Visit our What's New page at <http://houseofstitches.com/whatsnew.cfm> . There are even projects there that could be completed before the big day! You can choose from Plum Street Designs, Little House Needleworks, Country Cottage Needleworks, Joan Elliott, Stoney Creek and more! If you need a project with a warmer theme, see the two new To the Beach charts from Hands on Design. They complete the twelve part series.

If you are constantly getting the question about what you want for Christmas, we would like to suggest asking for a House of Stitches gift certificate. They are available in any amount and we do not charge postage to mail the gift certificate.

We are in the process of lining up classes for next year. If you have any suggestions let us know. We want to provide help in the areas that you want!

Have fun with your holiday preparations! We hope to put up our tree this weekend. I am amazed at how many homes are already beautifully decorated. My theory is that if I decorate later I can leave the decorations up later. That is my plan and I am sticking to it! In gloomy January the lights will brighten things considerably.

We are so grateful for your continued interest and support. You make it all possible!

Happy stitching,
Linda

This Newsletters Date is: 18-Nov-16

Hi, stitching friends!

Wonderful new projects await you at <http://www.houseofstitches.com/whatsnew.cfm>. As I scrolled through the new things I wanted to stop typing and start stitching! We have added six fun biscornus from Barbara Ana Designs. If you have always wanted to try one, now is the time! These are fun little projects that bring a smile. We are planning a biscornu class after the first of the year so start stitching and we will show you how easy it is to put them together. Prairie Schooler fans will be happy to know that some of the out of print charts have been reprinted! And it is our understanding that more will be reprinted as time goes on. This update also has a good selection of Christmas designs. Two

of my favorites are from Drawn Thread. I think the four designs in Christmas Baskets would make beautiful ornaments. The Christmas-Winter Mega Issue of Punch Needle and Primitive Stitcher has arrived. It has 30 projects to delight your inner prim stitcher. Just Nan has three new Christmas designs including a darling little Santa Mouse. We are also highlighting an older design because it is a biscornu and we have this class planned and we know you want to try stitching one!

Thanksgiving is upon us here in the U.S. Our weather has been unusually warm so it is making it hard to grasp just how late in the year it is! But, having said that, I am putting warm fall weather on my list of things to be things for which I am thankful. And, you, stitching friends are on that list, too! Thank you for your continued support and patronage. And thank you for being understanding as I have had to be away from the shop much more than usual. Nancy, Cherry, Joy and Sharon are on my thankful list, too, as they have shouldered much of the day to day business of keeping the shop going.

Happy stitching and Happy Thanksgiving!
Linda

This Newsletters Date is: 05-Nov-16

Hi stitching friends,

I hope you are feeling the Christmas Spirit taking over your stitching. Our What's New Page, <http://www.houseofstitches.com/whatsnew.cfm>, is brimming with wonderful new Christmas projects. Have you noticed the popularity of red pick-up trucks carrying Christmas trees as a decorating motif? They seem to be everywhere this year; on sweaters, pillows and cards to name just a few! Madame Chantilly and Needle Bling each have their own version to share with us. The much anticipated annual Christmas stocking has arrived from Shepherd's Bush. If you are not quite ready to stitch for the holidays; there are new designs for you, too. Mirabilia has a new Victorian lady dressed in a stunning ball gown. And there are new fall and Halloween designs to tempt you. Take a look and let us know which ones you want to add to your collection!

Happy stitching,
Linda

This Newsletters Date is: 19-Oct-16

Hi, stitching friends!

It is hard to believe it is the middle of October! We have been experiencing summer like temperatures and it has lulled me into thinking that I have plenty of time to plan for Thanksgiving and Christmas. The thing that brings me back to reality is the ever earlier time of sunset each day. The designers are doing a good job keeping us on track with new holiday projects. You can view our most recent arrivals at <http://www.houseofstitches.com/whatsnew.cfm> . Mill Hill brings us the latest Jim Shore perforated paper ornaments: two angels, two snowmen, an owl and a penguin. Lizzie Kate has six new designs for the little wooden sleds

that are so popular and easy to finish. The Lizzie Kate Yearbook series is now complete with the addition of November and December. Along with those designs there are two more new charts and two new kits! A new chart from Abby Rose gives us some good advice: Do more of what makes you happy! I think that has to include more stitching and more time at houseofstitches.com planning your next projects. See you there!

Happy stitching,
Linda

This Newsletters Date is: 05-Oct-16

Hi, stitching friends!

Wow! I hope you are ready for new projects. Our What's New page has over 50 new items to fill your stitching basket. You can see them at <http://houseofstitches.com/whatsnew.cfm>. Blackbird Designs completes their Garden Club series and several companies are continuing their series: Hands on Designs with To the Beach, Little House Needleworks with ABC Samplers, Shepherd's Bush with Thanksgiving Trifles and Summer House Stitches concludes their Zephyr Hill Mystery Sampler. There are many autumn and Halloween designs; some are cute and fun while others are spookier in nature. If you are looking for a beautiful Christmas project; be sure to see the two new designs from Victoria Sampler. Mill Hill has new little stocking ornaments. They are stitched on perforated paper in fun, bright colors. (Our next update will include new perforated paper ornaments by artist Jim Shore!) The 2016 Prairie Schooler Santa is online and he is waving good-bye. Maybe this one is truly the final Santa in the long-running series. We still have quite a few of the Santas from previous years if you missed getting some of them.

We had a noisy day at the shop today as a new roof was put on our part of the building. There was hail damage but we were spared any leaks. Hooray! It kept things lively (Bang! Boom! Crash!) and reminded us that all too soon it will be time to listen for reindeer hooves on our roofs!

Take a few minutes to browse our latest offerings and "get 'em while they're hot"! Thank you for your loyal patronage! We appreciate you!

Happy stitching,
Linda

This Newsletters Date is: 23-Sep-16

Hi, stitching friends!

Happy autumn! I am not sure how it arrived so quickly but here it is, ready or not. Our newly updated What's New page has many new autumn projects to tempt you! Christmas designs are well represented, too. There are fun new needle threaders and magnetic needle holders from Puffin & Co. and Kelmscott. We think of these items as toys for stitchers. Here is the link to the list of all 75 recently added items: <http://www.houseofstitches.com/whatsnew.cfm>. A faster way to see photos of all of them is to go to our catalog,

<http://www.houseofstitches.com/search.cfm> and type sep16b in the keyword box. It might be good to have a tall glass or large mug of your favorite beverage to enjoy as you make your shopping list!

We have a bit of exciting news for you. Even though Prairie Schooler retired from designing earlier this year; they have designed one more of their very popular Santa cards! They arrived too late to be included with this update but you can put a note in the customer comments area of your order and we will include it. He is \$5.00 and this is what he looks like this year:

http://hoffmandis.com/newbooklistings/monthly_detail.cfm?Start=92&listmo=0916.

Today I spoke with Deb from Punch Needle & Primitive Stitcher Magazine and learned that the Premier Issue is going to be reprinted! If you missed getting a copy you will have a second chance. Let us know you are interested and we will contact you when it arrives. Deb thinks we will have it by mid to late October.

What have you been stitching? I just finished one of the Chalkboard Ornaments by Hands On Designs. It was a fast stitch and easy to finish. The buttons and holly leaves that come with the chart make it easy to hide the ends of the cording and ribbon! I like easy! I hope you are enjoying your current projects, too!

Thank you for being our internet friend! We appreciate your interest and support.

Happy stitching,
Linda

This Newsletters Date is: 13-Sep-16

Hi stitching friends,

Wow! We have added a whopping 59 new things to our catalog! Things are arriving almost daily from the fall online shows. Here's a link to the list: <http://houseofstitches.com/whatsnew.cfm>. If you are a more visual kind of person, go to the catalog <http://www.houseofstitches.com/search.cfm> and type sep16a in the keyword box. That will give you pictures of all the new things in alphabetical order. It helps me see everything and not look at just my favorite designers. It is fun to play a little game of guess the designer as you look at them!

I am trying to get back in the groove at the shop after being out a few days last week. We were closed Monday for Labor Day and then I spent Friday and Saturday working on things at my mom's. Even though I am way behind at the shop it is definitely easier work! Since I need to be away from work so much this fall we are going to forego a fall stitching weekend. I apologize for the disappointment but promise to do better next year! (Remember, it is our big three zero anniversary!) Things are in the works for both a spring and fall weekend but are coming together slowly. We will also have the bi-annual Stash Exchange (fundraiser for Riley Children's Hospital), most likely in August. Stay tuned!

Thank you for your continued interest! We occasionally have someone tell us that no one cross stitches anymore. We beg to differ! We are stitching more than ever with more wonderful fibers, fabrics and designs than we could have imagined even ten years ago! It is a great time to be a stitcher.

Happy stitching,
Linda

This Newsletters Date is: 25-Aug-16

Hi, stitching friends!

I hope you are ready for some new projects because we have more than 60 new things for you on our What's New Page!!

<http://houseofstitches.com/whatsnew.cfm> The designers outdid themselves with new things for the Norden Online Show. There are many new fall designs and even two reprints of Prairie Schooler charts! We are taking pre-orders for the 2016 Just Cross Stitch Ornament magazine. It is scheduled to ship to us on August 30 so it will be here soon! I don't know which we anticipate more; the ornaments or the recipes! Lizzie Kate's 2016 Santa is here along with Tiny Tidings XXI. The Spooked! Mystery Sampler from Lizzie Kate is now complete with the arrival of part 3. There are two new samplers from Rosewood Manor and two new Garden Club charts from Blackbird Designs.

Have you stitched anything fun this summer? I just finished two small projects that were fun and fast. Here are links to pictures of them. Sweetheart Etui with Needlebook by Cherished Stitches <http://houseofstitches.com/detail.cfm?ID=35366> and My Heart is Home by Blackbird Designs <http://www.houseofstitches.com/detail.cfm?ID=35201>. I see a theme here; both are hearts!

I have been trying to fit in retreat planning and I just have not had the time and focus to get things together for a retreat this fall. We have had too many things going on in our home life to properly focus on scheduling fun weekends. BUT! Next year will be our 30th year at House of Stitches! I think that calls for some special events. We will be having our bi-annual Midwest Stash Exchange to raise money for Riley Children's Hospital---probably in August. And we have been talking with designers about teaching at weekend events. Stay tuned!

Thank you for your ongoing interest; we appreciate you!

Happy stitching,
Linda

This Newsletters Date is: 11-Aug-16

Hi, stitching friends!

We are shocked to see how fast summer is going by! It is hot and humid here in our neck of the woods but we keep reminding ourselves that we do not have to shovel or wear coats and hats and boot and gloves! Schools are beginning for another year and I am seeing a few leaves starting to turn red! I had a

final lunch (before school starts) with my grandchildren yesterday. We went to see their great grandmother and they had a good time telling her about all of their summer exploits.

We have updated our What's New page at <http://houseofstitches.com/whatsnew.cfm>. There are new fall designs if you are looking for seasonal projects. JBW has four new Halloween themed designs and they are all stitched in either black or white for fast stitching! The tenth Quaker Band of the month is here from Workbasket; only two more months to go! August Chalk Squared is here from Hands On Designs. And just today we received Chalkboard Christmas Ornaments part 2. (It will be added to our website soon. For now, just put a note in the customer comments section of your order form if you would like to order this one.

One of our distributors, Norden Crafts, is hosting an online needlework show. It is a wholesale show but you may look at all of the new things at <http://www.nordencrafts.com/C-1418/Norden-Fall-Show-2016.aspx> and let us know which ones you want. Some of the kits are limited editions so order them soon. The show goes through August 19.

Many of you have stopped for a visit during your summer travels. It has been wonderful to be able to put faces with names that we know from mail orders and phone calls. Be sure to stop by if you are in our neighborhood.

We appreciate your continued interest and patronage!

Happy stitching,
Linda

This Newsletters Date is: 01-Aug-16

Hi, stitching friends!

It is becoming apparent that I am not going to get a proper newsletter written! So, this is going to serve as a notification that our What's New page has been updated. You may see the latest arrivals at <http://houseofstitches.com/whatsnew.cfm>. I hope your summer is going well! I will try to do a better newsletter next time!

Happy stitching,
Linda

This Newsletters Date is: 14-Jul-16

Hi, stitching friends!

Great new projects are in store for you on our What's New Page! You can see the latest additions here: <http://houseofstitches.com/whatsnew.cfm>. We are excited to have three new charts from With My Needle! They are going in my stash; I just wish I could start stitching them NOW! Halloween lovers will want to get their copy of the Just Cross Stitch Halloween 2016 Special Collectors Issue. It is chock full of fun and spooky designs. Chalkboard designs continue to be popular and we have part one of the Christmas Collection from Hands on Design. (It looks like the series will have three

parts.) We also have Chalk Squared-July if you are collecting all the months.

Our latest trunk show should be arriving any day. It is from Erica Michaels and we are looking forward to sharing her exquisite models with you. Many are on silk gauze and we will have a demonstration piece that you can try. It is easier than you might think! The charts arrived earlier in the week and they are tantalizing us!! We will have the show for a month so make plans to visit if you can.

Part 2 of the Lizzie Kate mystery sampler Spooked! should be here early next week. It's not too late to sign up for the series. We can catch you up by mailing parts 1 and 2 at the same time.

Keep your needles threaded and going through the fabric! It seems like there is never enough time to stitch but even putting in a few stitches each day will get you closer to the finish line!

Happy stitching,
Linda

This Newsletters Date is: 25-Feb-16

Hi, stitching friends!

The shop is closed today due to our wonderful winter weather. We officially have over 17" of snow! LaPorte County has declared a snow emergency and only emergency vehicles are allowed on the roads. So, I am declaring this an official stitch from your stash day! It looks like we will be able to open tomorrow. Thank you for your patience and understanding!

Happy stitching (from your stash),
Linda