

# Amy's

needlework supplies & classes

OCTOBER 2013

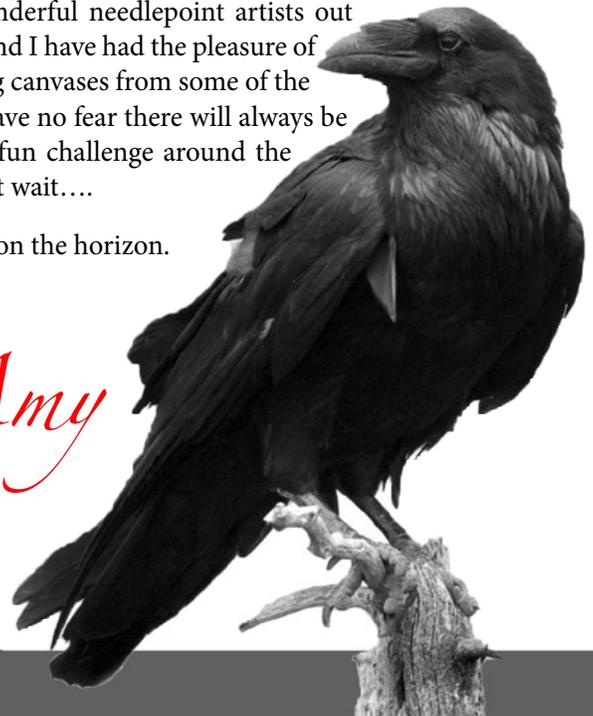
## LAID TO REST

what's inside this month

October brings many things to a close. Summer is over, the days are getting shorter, fashions change radically, and the hot meal replaces the picnic of fresh fruit and vegetables. The change in season for me brought the finish of my 2013 stitching companion, The Royal Pain in the Tudors Home Study Project. I was so completely drawn in by this project that I actually felt a physical sadness when I took the final stitches. I believe for a week or two I was actually dragging my feet so that it would still greet me from its stand each evening when I got home from work. It is amazing how involved we become with our hobby. I believe it must be the same for all hobbyists. The interest and participation in your field of recreation can actually take on a personality for which we can sometimes feel guilt and/or joy. My hobby has become my business, but it is always first and foremost my leisure and favorite pastime. Thanks to all of the wonderful needlepoint artists out there, and I have had the pleasure of working canvases from some of the best. I have no fear there will always be another fun challenge around the corner. But wait....

I see one on the horizon.

*Amy*



*Amy's Golden Strand*  
3808 Summer Avenue  
Memphis, TN 38122  
phone: 901.458.6109  
fax: 901.323.4701

# DARK SHADOWS

## HAUNTED HOUSE AND HALLOWEENIES HOME STUDIES

What is it about things that go bump in the night? Why are we so attracted to them when they are so scary? It must be that we are addicted to that jump in Adrenaline. Canvases displaying a Halloween theme have been some of our best sellers. Two of my best-selling Home Study Projects were based on Halloween canvas designs by Kelly Clark. I developed two Home Study Projects in 2009/2010 using eight of Kelly's Halloweenies characters along with her incredibly clever Haunted House. An unbelievable amount of work goes into a Home Study Project. It isn't just the stitching, but the research, learning, trial and error, and then the colossal job of writing the guides, working up the stitch diagrams, juggling the orders to get just the right amount of canvases, guides, threads, kitting material, packing material, stretcher bars, and miscellaneous materials such as gold painted toothpicks, cloth covered wire, paua shells, and evil-eye charms all in the shop at the crucial moment. We feel a little like wedding planners must feel when they orchestrate a big wedding.

To celebrate the month of Halloween we thought that we would bring you a few detail shots of our spooky friends in the Home Study department of AGS.



# DARK SHADOWS

## HAUNTED HOUSE AND HALLOWEENIES HOME STUDIES



Our Home Study Projects are pretty much classes in a box. We normally schedule them as one lesson per month, but there is no problem arranging for a custom mailing schedule to suit your needs. We can send out kits every other month or longer. We can also arrange for two kits per month or all kits at once to save shipping charges on additional shipments.

MORE INFO: [HTTP://WWW.AMYBUNGER.COM/HOME\\_STUDY\\_PREVIOUS.HTML](http://www.amybunger.com/home_study_previous.html)

# DARK DESIGNS IN THE SHOP

## WRISTLETS & CELL PHONE CASES

With Fall fashion moving in, I need to stow my yellow cell phone case and my hot pink wristlet and change over to colors more suited to my Autumn outfits.

COST:

WRISTLET \$40<sup>00</sup>

CELL PHONE CASE \$35<sup>00</sup>



## ACCOUTREMENT MAGNETS



COST:

MAGNETS \$12<sup>00</sup> TO \$16<sup>00</sup>

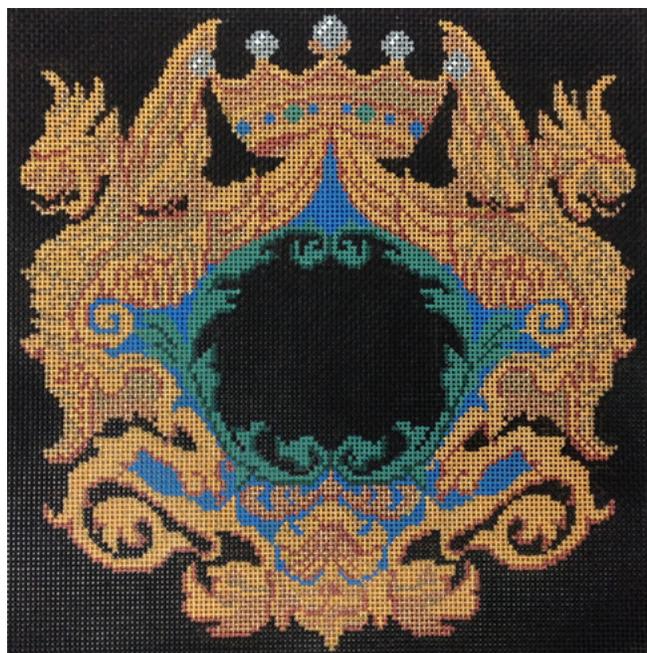
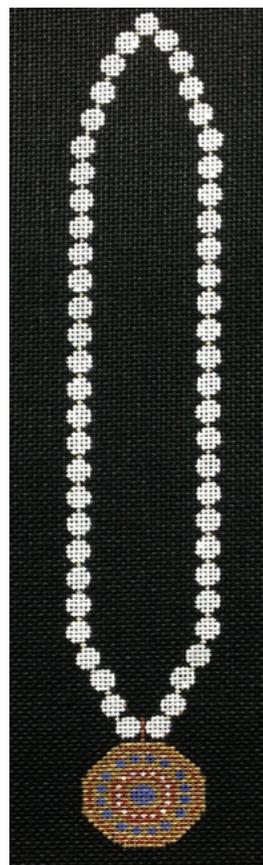
# DARK DESIGNS IN THE SHOP

## BLACK CANVASES

How about a few quick home "dress-ups" with JP Designs necklaces? They would be fast to stitch with an open (see Stitch of the Month) or NO background stitch. Easy and oh so much fun with 3-D techniques like beading or padded satin with glamorous threads. One of these necklaces would be a great framed artwork piece above a light switch or maybe a grouping in a larger space.

COST:

CANVASES \$78<sup>00</sup> EACH



How about a new pillow for that easy chair. Add your initial in the center space of this beautiful canvas by Point of it All. Finish as a box edge pillow for a masculine feel or with a French pleated flange or colorful fringe around the edge for a more feminine look.

COST:

CANVAS \$136<sup>50</sup>

# NEW PRODUCTS

## ETC MAGNETS



Butterflies, Frogs and Gators Oh My! These are just a few of the new designs available in Elizabeth Turner Collection BIG Needle Buddies. Colors vary and cannot always be reordered in the exact color.

COST:  
MAGNETS \$20<sup>00</sup> EACH

## MERRY L. PRINTS MOUSTACHE FOBS

Just in time for a visit from our favorite mustached needlepoint guru, Tony Minieri. We are happy to order these fobs to be done in your favorite colors. Just give us a call and we will take it from there.

COST:  
SCISSOR FOBS \$40<sup>00</sup> EACH



# NEW PRODUCTS

## MERRY L. PRINTS

### THANKSGIVING BEAD SOUP FOBS

Do I spy a cute little Thanksgiving Turkey peering out between those beads? Cute little pumpkins with Autumn colored beads to use throughout the season...gotta luv em! Each little Bead Soup fob is hand-made therefore slightly unique. We cannot guarantee the "exact" bead of the photo on your fob.

COST:  
SCISSOR FOBS \$26<sup>00</sup>



## MERRY L. PRINTS

### HALLOWEEN BEAD SOUP FOBS

Don't forget... We still have a few of the Halloween Bead Soup Fobs in stock

COST:  
SCISSOR FOBS \$26<sup>00</sup>

## STELLA SKY LIGHT FLOOR MODEL

One Lamp. Three Colors.



Warm White  
[2800K]

**Calming activities.**  
Reading, accent,  
general purpose.

Pure White  
[4000K]

**Productivity.**  
Arts, crafts,  
working with color

Cool White  
[5500K]

**Late night projects  
and tired eyes.**

**ASSEMBLY...**Oooh, this was perfect for this girl. One plug-in and then screw the shaft to the base like screwing in a light bulb....awesome! Remove the paper tape between the battery and the contact on the remote....check. Plug the power cord into the base, other end into the wall, and you are done without a single "Honey can you help me here?" Even the box was easy to open...didn't need to get out the jaws of life, just something to cut the tape.

**FLEXIBILITY...**The flexible neck will bend around all over the place, making it easy to get exactly the angle you want. It is a soft flex-neck and very easy to bend, so I found that I sometimes went a little past the mark I wanted and had to readjust but had no problems getting it where I wanted it. I was just a tad ham-handed to start. I guess it is all the years of using the heavy metal goose-neck lamps. The height can be adjusted too. For my needlework, I like it retracted to its lowest setting (4 feet high) for a narrow field of light that concentrated more on what I am doing. For reading, painting or computer work, I like it higher (up to 6 feet tall) to get a broader range of light.

**LIGHT ADJUSTMENT....**Woooo, it is hard to stop playing with the different colors of light and the 5 adjustments of intensity down to only 10% of maximum output. They really had me with "dimmer switch," but I LOVE being able to go from "mood setting" warm light while listening to my music or watching TV to natural light (combo of warm and cool lights all on at the same time) for reading, selecting colors and/or stitching, or to cool light. The cool light reminds me more of office lighting

and is great for eliminating pesky shadow-like blind spots when I am stitching. The recommendation is to use the cool light for tired eyes, and I can see where that might work, though I haven't really kicked the tires on that one yet. Once I get past the tricky spots, I change back to the natural light while stitching to enjoy the "real" colors of the project.

**REMOTE...** This little gizmo is pretty neat. The remote works from as far away as 15 feet and has a memory. So when turned off, it will change the default setting to the last mode/brightness used. It is small and has an easy touch to effortlessly change the light setting from different temperature (warm, natural, cool) or different intensity (5-level intensity dimmer). There are magnets in the remote that hold it to the thinner retractable pole and keep it out of the way. The only down side is that at the lowest height setting of the lamp there is no pole left exposed to snap your remote on. The small remote (1.75 x 3.75 x .5) doesn't take up much space on the table so I guess I can get over that.

**EFFICIENCY...** Even with all LEDs burning at maximum brightness, it still only consumes 10 watts of energy and is cool and comfortable to sit under for long periods of time....no more sweating under the light in the summer months. Your Stella Sky will still produce 70% of its original light after 48,108 hours of use (12 hours a day, 365 day a year for 11 years) for less than a penny a day with zero maintenance other than a little dusting. Oops, not sure how long the battery lasts in the remote...back to the research lab!

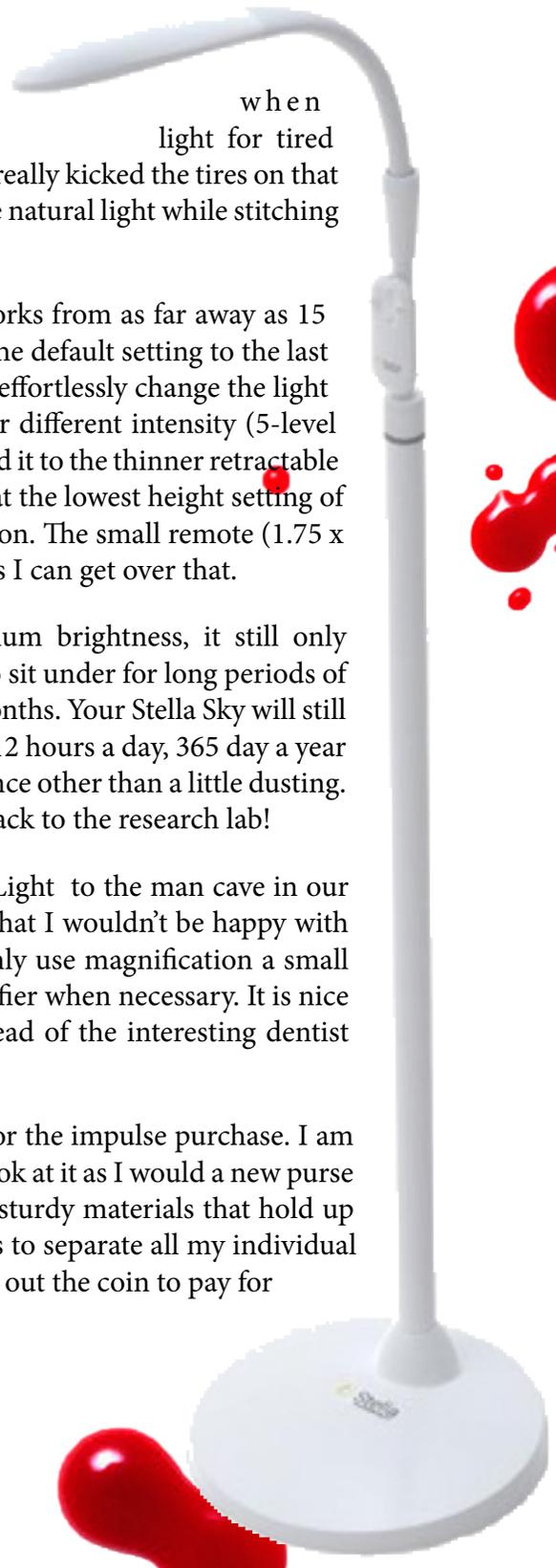
I have a feeling that I am going to lose my new Stella Sky Light to the man cave in our house unless I buy another one for Bob. I was concerned that I wouldn't be happy with the lack of magnification. As I mentioned last month, I only use magnification a small percentage of the time and can use a smaller clip-on magnifier when necessary. It is nice to have this attractive sleek lamp in my "girl's room" instead of the interesting dentist office-look that I have grown used to.

The Stella lamps, Sky floor model or table model, are not for the impulse purchase. I am not ignoring the fact that these lamps are expensive, but I look at it as I would a new purse (another indispensable tool). If it is easy to carry, made of sturdy materials that hold up over the long haul without looking like a hobo, has pockets to separate all my individual needs, and matches all my outfits, then I am willing to shell out the coin to pay for the top-of-the-line product.

**COST: STELLA FLOOR MODEL \$395<sup>00</sup>**

COMES IN WHITE ONLY

EXTRA SHIPPING CHARGES WILL APPLY



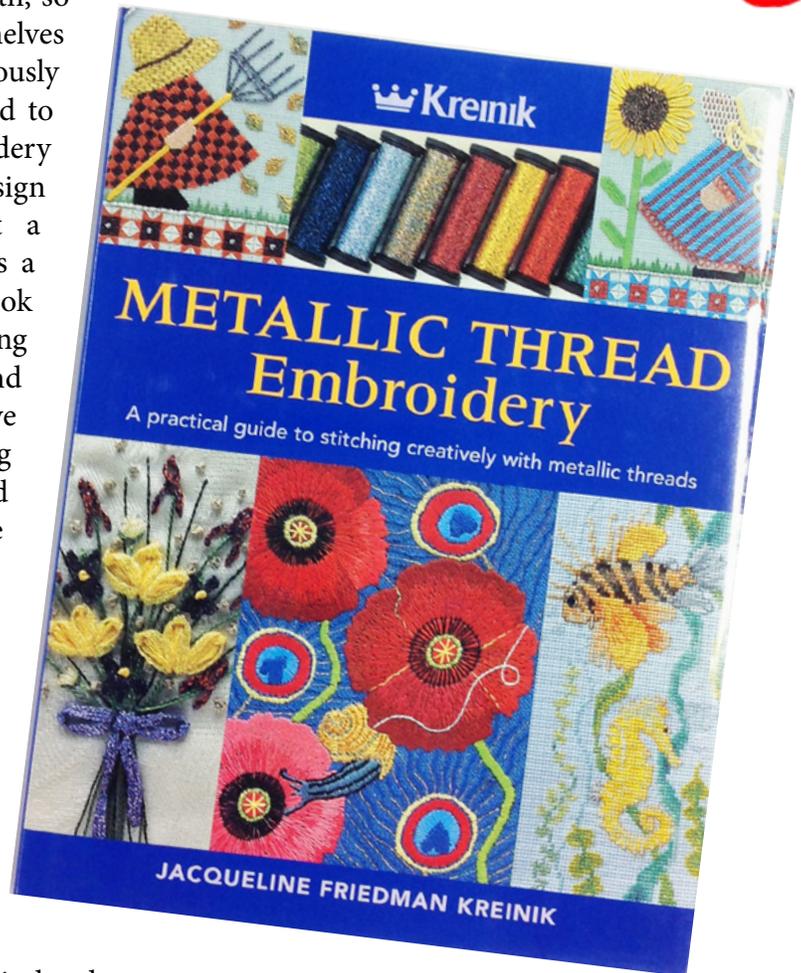
# BOOK OF NOTE

## KREINIK'S METALLIC THREAD EMBROIDERY

A new book doesn't come out each month, so I wandered up to look at our bookshelves to see if I could find a book I haven't previously mentioned and there were a few. I decided to tell you about *Metallic Thread Embroidery* by Jacqueline Friedman Kreinik with Design Coordinator Ann Caswell. This is not a new book. It was first released in 2000 as a thread reference and project book. The book mentions the 5000+ year old history of using metal threads but concentrates on the use and description of "metallic" which are relative newcomers to the embroidery scene being merely 60 -- 70 years old. Metal thread and metallic thread are definitely NOT the same thing, and the book explains that as well as the why, when, and how of using the metallic threads.

I laughed when I read the description of the early synthetic metallic threads. We've come a long way baby! There is good information on the different type of thread carried by Kreinik including how long the "glow-in-the-dark" effect will last after the lights are turned out. The color reference chart in the back of the book is dated; as many colors have been added to the line. That can be easily remedied by printing off current lists from the Kreinik Website. Most metallic thread types which are readily available in almost every needlecraft shop are mentioned, described and have an application suggested. There are good tips on pages 24-25 on using the snap and lock flange spools to your advantage as well as on locking threads and threading your needle using paper.

I probably won't work any of the projects detailed in the book, but I found several great technique ideas: two-color twisted cord, couching Japan Gold, and couching through the center of braid to flatten and

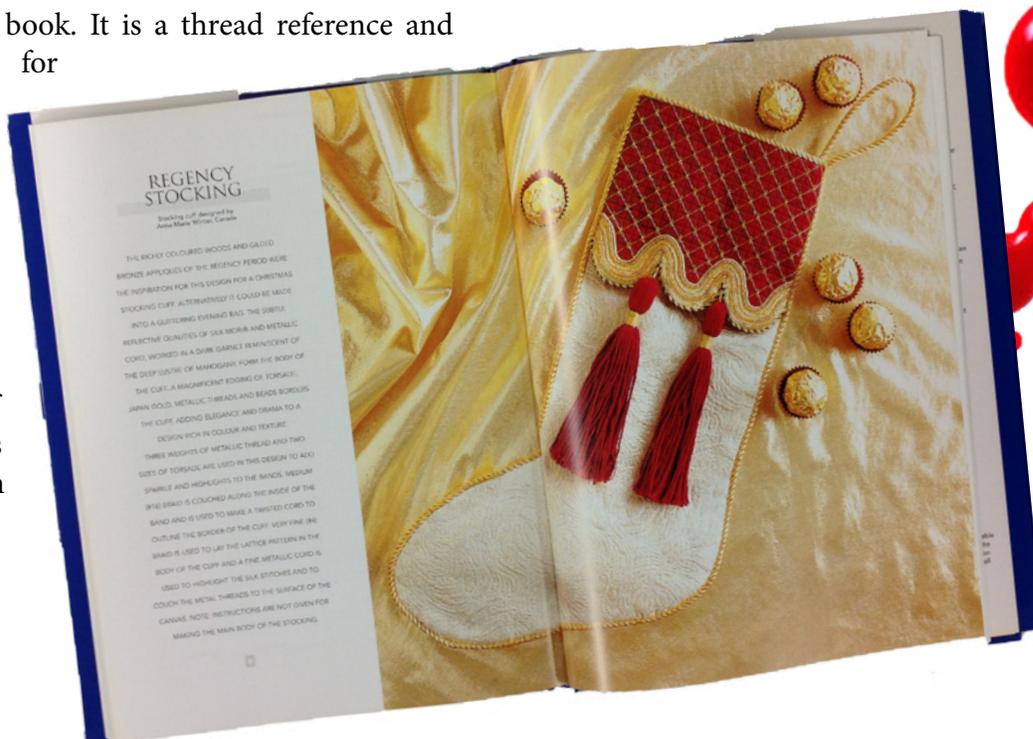


# BOOK OF NOTE

## CONTINUED

spread it while following a chosen path. The diagrammed lattice pattern in Regency Stocking is a great stitch and the Classic Golden Balantine would be a fairly quick gift idea for an eyeglass case, checkbook cover (do people write checks anymore?), and Lee Leather wallet insert.

This is not a stitch book. It is a thread reference and technique book for your needlepoint library. If you are looking for a background stitch, don't look here. This is a book to read and learn more about all those spools of metallic threads rolling around in your thread drawer.



COST:  
METALLIC  
THREAD  
EMBROIDERY  
\$30<sup>00</sup>

*OCTOBER SPECIAL (WHILE SUPPLIES LAST) \$25<sup>50</sup>*

# NEW THREADS

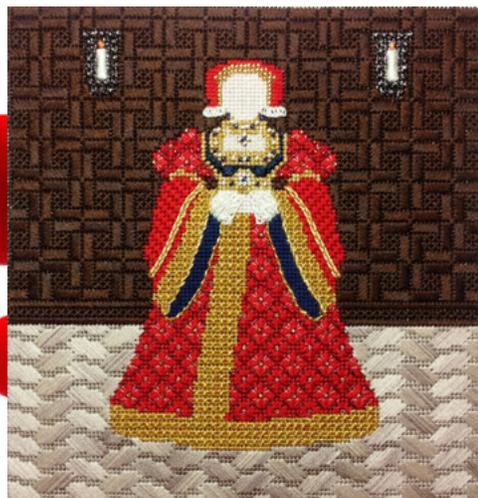
## DINKY DYES

My trip to St. Charles in the end of August cost me a bundle and I LOVE IT!!! Not only did I fall hook line and sinker over the Stella lights but I thought, "Amy, you have been such a hard-working good girl this year. Let's blow it out and buy one of each of the Dinky Dyes Overdyed stranded silks & silk ribbons." Do you have any idea how RICH it can make a girl feel to have EVERY color of a thread beautifully arranged inside a clear bag? It took Cindi three weeks to convince me to get them out of the bag and start to play with them. Now that they are out of the bag, I don't want to use any of them or it will mess up my arrangement.

COST:  
STRANDED SILK \$4<sup>25</sup> PER SKEIN, 8 METERS  
4MM SILK RIBBON \$4<sup>75</sup> PER CARD, 4 METERS

# NEW GUIDES

You must purchase either the canvas or thread kit (or both) to order a stitch guide. Have you already bought a canvas from us? Don't worry, we can always look up your order and if you have already purchased one of these canvases from us, you can still order the guide.



**ANNE OF CLEVES**  
BY ROGUE NEEDLEPOINT

LORI CARTER GUIDE

GUIDE: \$25<sup>00</sup>

+ CANVAS AND/OR THREAD PURCHASE

**PUTRID PUMPKIN**  
BY KIRK & BRADLEY

AMY BUNGER GUIDE

GUIDE: \$15<sup>00</sup>

+ CANVAS AND/OR THREAD PURCHASE



**CABANAS**

BY LEIGH DESIGNS

AMY BUNGER GUIDE

GUIDE: \$70<sup>00</sup>

+ CANVAS AND/OR THREAD PURCHASE

**GUNILDA**

BY MELISSA SHIRLEY

AMY BUNGER GUIDE

GUIDE: \$113<sup>75</sup>

+ CANVAS AND/OR THREAD PURCHASE



# NEW GUIDES

## THANKSGIVING BASKET

BY MELISSA SHIRLEY

### ROBIN KING GUIDE

GUIDE: \$99<sup>00</sup>

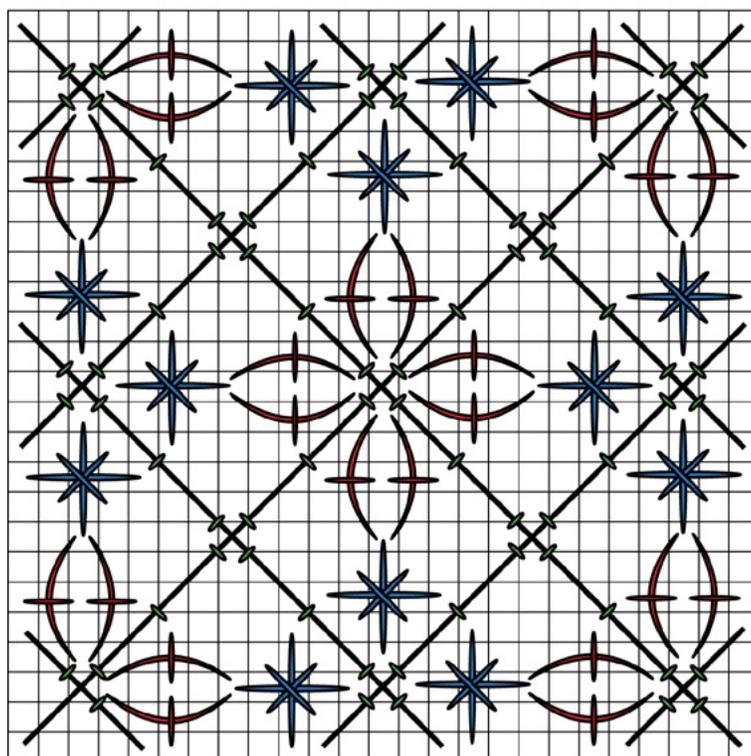
+ CANVAS AND/OR THREAD PURCHASE



# STITCH OF THE MONTH

## Diagonal Trellis Flowers

The perfect backdrop for one or all of the JP Needlepoint Design Necklace canvases, Diagonal Trellis Flowers. Black on black would be very elegant, but you might also wish to use Charcoal Gray threads for a subtle change to make the pattern in the background pop a little bit without getting so busy that it takes over the design in the foreground. Try using three different textures or thicknesses of the same color to create the pattern. A suggested possibility might be: one strand of Noir Soie Perlee for the long diagonal stitches diagrammed in black and the tacking stitches diagrammed in green, one strand of Kreinik Size 4 Metallic Braid in #005HL or #005L for the tied stitches diagrammed in red and one strand of Impressions Black for the crossed stitches diagrammed in blue.



# CUSTOMER GALLERY



**THANKSGIVING HOUSE**  
from Melissa Shirley  
Stitched by Cindy McKown  
from Amy Bunger Home Study  
Project



**HALLOWEEN CREEPS**  
from Needle Deeva  
Stitched by Karen Wolkenberg  
from Robin King stitch guides



**HELOWISE AND LUELLA**  
from Melissa Shirley  
Stitched by Jeanne Kunzman  
from Amy Bunger stitch guides





## THE EXECUTIONER

London was witness to more than two-hundred thousand executions between the 10th and the 19th century, and for at least a period it acquired the nickname “The City of Gallows.” Executions during this time ranged from boiling in water, burning at the stake, decapitation, hanging, and drawing and quartering at sites such as Tyburn, Tower Hill, Smithfield, Caring Cross, and Westminster with the Tower of London being reserved for royalty and political dignitaries, who were not immune to capital punishment. While Henry VIII reigned, at least 72,000 people met their death for crimes committed, including—most famously—two of Henry’s six wives, Anne Boleyn and Katherine Howard.

Executions were public affairs, the largest social events of the times and were often rough, noisy, and boisterous. Citizens could recite the infamous criminals executed at certain sites, just as today many can recite famous sportsmen from different teams. Crowds would arrive early on “collar days” or “hanging fairs” to get places close to the “stage,” much as people do today at an outdoor rock concert. Balconies of houses near the scaffolding would be rented out and special stands would be built for better views with admission prices contingent upon the infamy of the felon. Vendors would set up to sell food and souvenirs, minstrels and jugglers would entertain the crowds waiting, and “broadsheets” would be printed and sold on which the supposed history and crimes of the felon were detailed.

After the execution, the executioner would get in on the money earning. By law, the executioner was entitled to the victims’ clothing, and he would often divvy it up to sell. Hangman’s ropes were cut for souvenirs, and ashes of the deceased were often packaged and sold. This was not always an honest trade, and in 1440 the volume of ashes sold after the execution of the martyr, Richard Wyches, was enough to have come from several bodies. In addition, there were often mishaps, such as in 1447 when five men were stripped of their clothing for execution just before a pardon came down. The executioner, who was to lose his wages for the day’s work, refused to return their clothing, and they had to walk back to London naked.

Executioners reached their zenith during Tudor times. An executioner was an educated working man, both respected and feared. In order to be good at their



# A BIT OF HISTORY.

jobs, they had to not only be skilled in torture and executions, but also in anatomy and medicine. Often put in charge of garnering a confession, an executioner could not have the criminal die from torture before receiving sentence; therefore, the executioner was often forced to treat the wounds they had just given to prevent an early demise.

An executioner was neither lower class or upper class. As Joel Harrington, author of *The Faithful Executioner*, states:

Most were forced to live outside the city walls or near an already unclean location within the city, typically the slaughter-yard or a leperorium. Their legal disenfranchisement was just as thorough: no executioner or family member could hold citizenship, be admitted to a guild, hold public office, serve as a legal guardian or trial witness, or even write a valid will. Until the late fifteenth century, these outcasts received no legal protection from mob violence in the event of a botched execution, and a few were actually stoned to death by angry spectators. In most towns, hangmen—as they were most commonly known—were forbidden to enter a church. And if an executioner wished to have his child baptized or desired last rites for a dying relative, he depended on the willingness of the sometimes less-than-compassionate local priest to set foot in an “unclean” residence. They were also banned from bathhouses, taverns, and other public buildings, and it was virtually unheard of for an executioner to enter the home of any respectable person. People of Frantz Schmidt’s era harbored such a pervasive fear of social contamination at the very touch of an executioner’s hand that respectable individuals jeopardized their very livelihoods by even casual contact. Folklore abounded with tales of the disasters that befell those who broke this ancient taboo, and of beautiful condemned maidens who chose death over marriage to willing hangmen.



## ROGUE EXECUTIONERS

Now available to accompany your set of Tudor queens. You may either choose Anne Boleyn’s swordsman from Calais or Katherine Howard’s axeman from London. Or perhaps you should get both for a perfect pair of Halloween book ends.

CANVAS: \$38<sup>00</sup> EACH





## KIT #6 - ANNE BOLEYN

By the time you read this newsletter, the Anne Boleyn kits and guides will be wrapped in tissue and boxed up ready to roll out to their new homes for Group One in The Royal Pain in the Tudors Home Study.

Part of this section was actually worked in my car while Jill drove us home from the St. Charles market. You would have laughed to see me brace the long canvas on the dashboard while trying to catch the sunshine to work a black on black pattern. Sometimes stitchers must be part contortionist!

After the research on pearls for the newsletter last month, I remembered Anne Boleyn's beloved pendant. I didn't change the lovely painted pearl & ruby pendant to a golden "B" like Anne's, but I did change the single painted pearl drop to three pearls at the bottom to remind me of Anne's favorite piece of jewelry.



Group Two will be getting their fourth kit in the series to work on Jane Seymour. This year has flown by and my work on the Tudors has kept me busy but very entertained.

# 2014 HOME STUDY PROJECT



The 2013 Home Study, The Royal Pain in the Tudors (seen on page 15), is a design loosely based on the textiles and jewelry styles worn by the Tudor wives of Henry VIII. The companion piece designed for our 2014 Home Study Project (seen at left) will follow in the same historical theme, this time based on his royal highness, King Henry VIII. I am thrilled to be able to continue working on Juli Poitras (JP Needlepoint Designs) wonderful patterns and ideas. Her creativity inspires my needle. Although the techniques and stitches will be similar in style, I will be exploring the new and different as well.

This regal banner of pomp and circumstance has arrived only in photo form so far. Soon this photo will be followed with the actual canvas on which I will do "my thing." Juli has dubbed this piece of artwork with the title of "Hank's Rags." WHAT? Are you serious? This is the title for the new gorgeous Tudor project? NO WAY! We need a contest!

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### TUDOR MAILING

GROUP I - KIT #6

GROUP II - KIT #4

**October 1**

**Store is open for walk-in shopping every Tuesday and Thursday.**

## NAME CONTEST

I will probably never be able to refer to this canvas with a more formal and appropriate title but nonetheless we are going to have a contest to find a title more fitting of such a regal project. All suggestions are welcome and will be judged by a panel of undisclosed judges. The winner will be mentioned in a future newsletter and awarded with Henry's appreciation and a token gift certificate for the amount of \$25.00. This is pretty much "just for fun."

Strict Rules of the entry...none.

No purchase is necessary (except to use your gift certificate)

We reserve the right to a "no winner" if no entry is better than "Hank's Rags."

In case of a tie, the first entry of that title will be the winner.