



Newsletter of the Blue Ribbon Chapter

American Needlepoint Guild, Inc.

Volume 10, Issue 10

October 1, 2026

Indicates change.

In person events (meetings, SIPs, and lunches) are weather permitting.

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Calendar

Saturday, October 10

1:00 - 1:30 pm

1:30 - 2:00 pm

2:00 - 4:00

Tuesday, November 17

6:00 - 6:45 pm

6:45 - 7:15 pm

7:15 - 8:30 pm

Tuesday, December 15

6:00 - 6:45 pm

6:45 - 7:15 pm

7:15 - 8:30 pm

Tuesday, January 19

6:00 - 6:45 pm

6:45 - 7:15 pm

7:15 - 8:30 pm

Tuesday, February 16

6:00 - 6:45 pm

6:45 - 7:15 pm

7:15 - 8:30 pm

Monthly meeting – North Liberty Library and Teams

Social/stitching time; log in to Teams

Chapter business meeting

Study topic – Yo-Yo/Dorset Button Ornament

Monthly meeting – Teams

Log in to Teams; social/stitching time

Chapter business meeting

Study topic – Kick off WIP Challenge

Monthly meeting –Teams

Social/stitching time; log in to Teams

Board and business meetings

Study topic – WIP Challenge

Monthly meeting –Teams

Social/stitching time; log in to Teams

Business meeting

Study topic – WIP Challenge

Monthly meeting –Teams

Social/stitching time; log in to Teams

Business meeting

Study topic – WIP Challenge

Visit the Blue Ribbon Chapter website at <https://www.blueribbonang.com>

Facebook page – <https://www.facebook.com/groups/4605737459498550>



Blue Ribbon ANG Chapter Meeting Minutes, September 15, 2026

Board Meeting

- President Cindy Baldwin called the meeting to order at 7:01 pm.
- Board members present – Cindy Baldwin, Robin Rossignol, Jamie Randall
- No old or new business to discuss.
- Meeting adjourned.

Business Meeting

- President Cindy Baldwin called the meeting to order at 7:02 pm.
- Members present – Cindy Baldwin, Kareen Strumpel, Robin Rossignol, Jamie Randall, Connie Rosene, Heidi Parker, Jeannette Tombaugh, Ruth Topp
- Officer Reports
 - o Secretary – No changes to the August minutes.
 - o Treasurer Report – Checking account balance for June and July was \$1,092.59. K of C rent for August and September paid in September.
 - o Membership – No report.

Old Business

- Treasurer changeover was accomplished. Still need to transfer President materials.
- Audit financial books.
- Venmo renewal – Jamie Randall will explore options with Hills Bank.
- Website file update (Cindy B) – Cindy updated the Membership Directories folder, the new member welcome letter and package in the New Member Information folder, and the Blue Ribbon Officers list in the main folder.

New Business

- Robin suggested that we increase our award for best needlepoint at the State Fair to \$50. After a brief discussion, a motion was made and seconded. The motion was unanimously approved.
- Cindy is tired of hauling the computer equipment to meetings but doesn't want to lose the capability for hybrid meetings. Asked for suggestions.
 - o Heidi suggested that someone else could take over that responsibility. Cindy will donate the camera, tripod, and speaker but not the computer. It does mean that whoever takes over would need to notify members ASAP if they were not able to attend so we could switch to a virtual meeting.
 - o Connie suggested switching entirely to virtual meetings. In that vein, Cindy suggested that we might change meeting times to 7-8:30 pm, with the board and/or business meeting starting at 7 followed by stitching time. In addition, Cindy suggested quarterly (e.g., March, June, September, and December) in-person meetings on a Saturday. The meetings would be longer, perhaps 10-4, at a library in Cedar Rapids or Coralville. New study topics would be started during these meetings, instead of as frequently as we have been doing.
 - o Please offer other suggestions at the October meeting.
- The November meeting will be virtual. Our K of C contact has been notified.

The Blue Ribbon Chapter of American Needlepoint Guild, Inc. (ANG), invites interested individuals, regardless of expertise, into membership. Dues are \$20 per year payable to the Chapter. You must be a current ANG member to belong to the Chapter. ANG membership information can be found at <http://www.needlepoint.org/membership.php>.

Guests and visitors are welcomed.

Meetings are held the 3rd Tuesday of every month (except May, July, and October) starting with a social time at 6:00 pm, with the formal meeting starting at 7:00 pm. These meetings are held at the Knights of Columbus, 1620 E Avenue NE, Cedar Rapids, IA and on Teams. Meetings in December, January, and February will be held on Teams only, starting with Teams login/social time at 6:15 pm, with the formal meeting starting at 7:00 pm.

Meetings in May, July, and October are held on the 2nd Saturday of the month starting with social time at 1:00 pm and the formal meeting beginning at 1:30 pm. The Saturday meetings are held at the North Liberty Public Library, 520 W. Cherry St, North Liberty, IA and on Teams.

Board meetings will be held in September, December, March, and June.

The Blue Ribbon ANG Newsletter is published monthly. Deadline for submission of items is the 20th day of each month.

Newsletter Editor: Cindy Baldwin cabaldwin1828@gmail.com

2026-2027 Officers

Past President Heidi Parker (handparker@gmail.com)

President Cindy Baldwin (cabaldwin1828@gmail.com)

President Elect Robin Rossignol (robin-ann-rossignol@uiowa.edu)

VP-Membership Jamee Klein (jameek34@gmail.com)

Secretary Julia Ackerman (jcacker@aol.com)

Treasurer Jamie Randall (jvandereide@gmail.com)

Chapter website: <https://www.blueribbonang.com/>

Announcements

- Next meeting is October 10 at the North Liberty Library

Meeting adjourned at 7:28 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Cindy Baldwin
President

Nametag

Please remember to wear your nametags at meetings and when we are stitching in public.

Blue Ribbon ANG Website

Our website (<https://www.blueribbonang.com/>) has a Members Only page. When you go to the website, you'll see a Log In button to the right of ANG. Click on that and follow the instructions. Cindy Baldwin must approve access. Once you are approved, the last page on the website is Members. Click on that to add information about yourself.

Hover over Members and you'll see Files. You'll see several folders, including Study Topics. Patterns and information for past study topics are saved here. Anyone can create folders and add files. If you have questions, ask Cindy.

October Study Topic – Yo-Yo/Dorset Button Ornament

We will learn to make a Dorset button in our October meeting. The Chapter will provide 1" and 1½" plastic rings. We will work on the 1" ring in the meeting (because it won't take as long to wrap). You will need to bring #8 pearl cotton and a size 22 needle.

Yo-Yo resources

- o Sew Easy Lesson: Yo-Yos <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cBk3zpfq3Hs>
- o Scrap Buster: How to Make a Fabric Yo-Yo (Suffolk Puff) <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bMR297dWVBs>
- o Clover has tools to make yo-yos that really speed up the process if you are making a lot of yo-yos.
 - From Clover - <https://clover-usa.com/collections/yo-yo-makers>. They are also available in quilting stores and on Amazon (as a last resort).
 - Always In Stitches Clover's Yo Yo Maker Demonstration <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=6yFWHhscd34&t=1112s>

Notes for the Nordic Gnome

Thanks to Robin for sharing her notes about stitching the Nordic Gnome.

- Top of sweater.
 - o Stitch step 8 before step 6. It is easier to slide under the threads for the Jessicas.
 - o Step 6. Stitch the top back-to-back crescent, then stitch the flat-sided Jessicas (step 7) before finishing step 6.
 - o Step 9 Star Rhodes. There are 3 times you'll compensate this stitch. They are all around the 1st and last set of back-to-back crescents. Look at Figure 11.
- Bottom of sweater.
 - o Work step 14, small star Jessicas, before step 13. You'll end up with less Whisper in the Jessicas.
- Hat bottom
 - o Stitch both Rhodes, steps 16 and 17, before the red sprats head (step 15).
- Hat Top
 - o The two crescents that share a starting point can be stitched with 1 36" length.
- Beading
 - o Robin found some of the 4 mm bicones were too big for where Kurdy placed them. They cover some of the stitching.
 - o Robin's Sundance #277 blue beads were a blue green. She found another bead that was a better blue.

Future Study Topics

Thanks to everyone for suggesting projects and voting. We chose the projects with the most votes, and the tentative schedule is below. We'll adjust the schedule if necessary as we go along.

- November – Kick off WIP Challenge.
- December, January, February 2027 – WIP Challenge
- March, April 2027 – Hilton Head, Marilyn Owen. Needle Pointers, September/October 2021, pages 30-37.
- May 2027 – Diamond Elegance II, Barbara Richardson. Needle Pointers, July 2013, pages 32-33.
- June, July 2027 – Sedona Sunset, Kurdy Biggs. Needle Pointers, May/June 2025, pages 24-31.
- August, September, October 2027 – Fiesta, Mary Knapp. Needle Pointers, July/Aug 2022, pages 24-36.

We are going to put off the Art Deco Tree, Deborah Reichert. (Needle Pointers, November/December 2024, pages 38-61.) We need someone to take the lead on the project and right now, no one is ready to do that.

ANG Chapter Leaders Meeting

Cindy attended a Zoom Chapter Leaders meeting on September 28. Shirley Chin, VP for Membership led the meeting.

President Janet Perry reported on the status of the website upgrade. An anonymous donor gave \$35,000 for the upgrade. This was half of the amount needed, hence the recent requests for donations to support the work. The work is already underway and is expected to greatly improve our experience with the website. It will include the ability for chapters to create mini websites. It should be active around January 1.

Shirley's niece is a graphic designer and Shirley hired her to create some marketing materials that would appeal to young people (mostly very colorful and eye catching). The template is editable and will be available for the chapters to use as needed.

ANG is piloting a stitch club format in a couple of locations. Because chapters are dissolving due to a lack of people willing to serve as officers, stitch clubs may allow groups to continue without the need for officers, dues, bylaws, etc. People attending the stitch club would need to be ANG members and would only have electronic access to Needle Pointers unless they want to pay for full membership. Someone from the group would need to serve as liaison to the area rep. This is a very new initiative and not ready for prime time so stay tuned.

Membership renewal will be open around October 15.

Podcasts and Videos

- Fiber Talk Stitch Hour, 9-2-26 was a review of Robin and Cindy's state fair entries. You can see good photos of our work. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=l7GHn3rpnmo&t=8s>

Blogs

- PVC (Plastic) 18 Count Canvas by Mill Hill - 9/22/26 <https://brendasneedlepointstudio.blogspot.com/2026/09/pvc-plastic-18-count-canvas-by-mill.html> Experimenting with the replacement for perforated paper.
- How to Use Variegated Thread: Needlepoint Tips and Tricks for Hand-Dyed Floss and Perle Cotton <https://colourcomplements.com/2026/09/how-to-use-variegated-thread-needlepoint-tips-and-tricks.html>

Interesting Needlework and Related Info on the Internet

- The Bayeux Tapestry online experience <https://www.britishmuseum.org/bayeux-tapestry-online-experience>
- Tidbits and Techniques <https://bedeckedandbeadazzled.com/not-your-grandmothers-needlepoint/tidbits-and-techniques/> Lots of good information, including videos on stitch techniques, beading, goldwork, and more. Thread conversion charts in the Download section.
- Free Rábaközi Embroidery Patterns <https://pintangle.com/2026/09/24/free-rabakoz-embroidery-patterns/> "Rábaközi Hímzések 1 is a collection of cross stitch patterns drawn from the collections of the Hungarian National Museum. The museum's Ethnography Department have published patterns from their collection in a series of booklets." <https://archive.org/details/rabakoz-embroidery-1-1924-2021/page/10/mode/thumb> These would make great bookmarks.
- A new tool from Bohin. Needle puller 3 in 1 | BOHIN <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=DT11gyXqRs0>. It is available from several vendors, but prices vary, so shop around.

Needlework Holidays

- September is National Needlepoint Month.
- July 25th is National Thread the Needle Day.
- July 30th is World Embroidery Day.
- August 8th is World Cross Stitch Day.
- Stitch in Public day (Feb 1st) and the entire month of February is National Embroidery Month.

Editor's Note

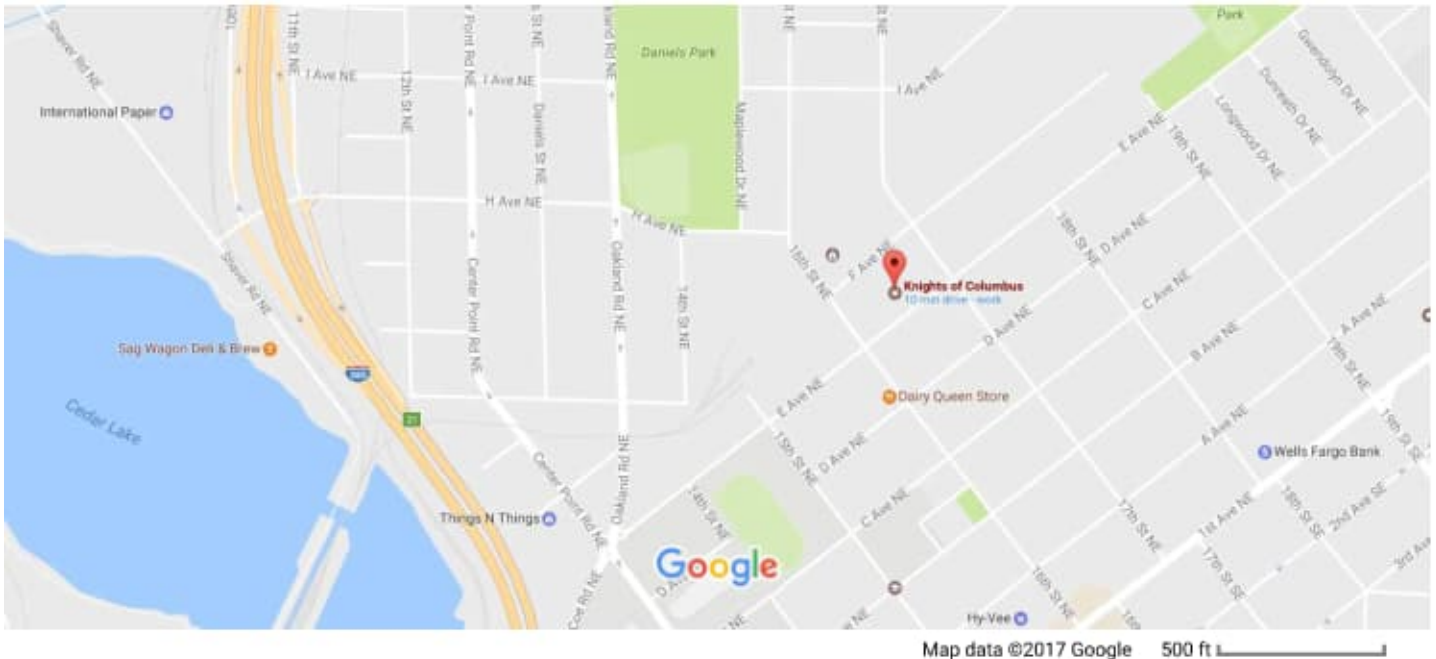
Items included in the newsletter are ones that I think the membership might be interested in. I'm also happy to include news items or suggestions you send me, so please feel free to send things to me for inclusion in the next newsletter.

Cindy

Directions to Knights of Columbus Hall

1620 E Avenue NE, Cedar Rapids, IA

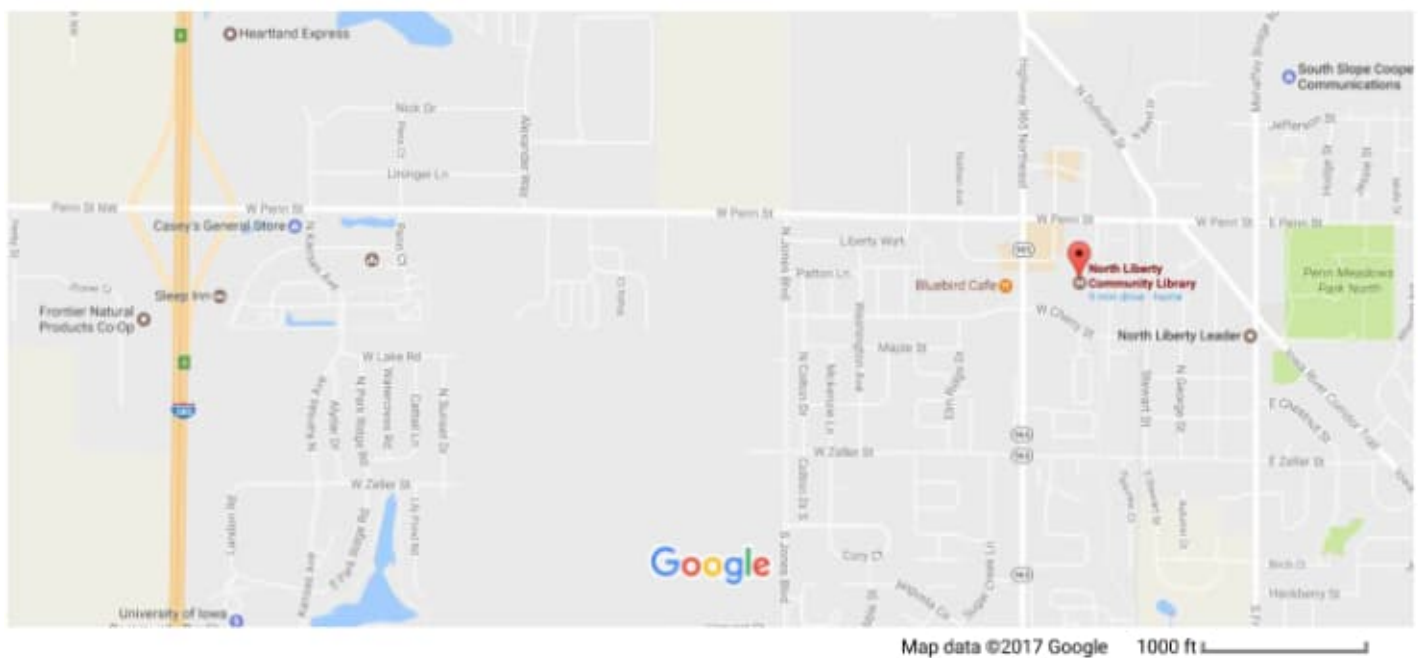
From I380, take the H Avenue exit. Turn onto H Ave NE. Turn right onto 16th St NE. Turn left onto E Ave NE. The Knights of Columbus Hall is on the left.



Directions to North Liberty Public Library

520 W. Cherry St, North Liberty, IA

From I380, take the Penn St exit. Go east on Penn St. Turn right on Highway 965 NE. Turn left on Cherry St. The library entrance is on the west side of the building.



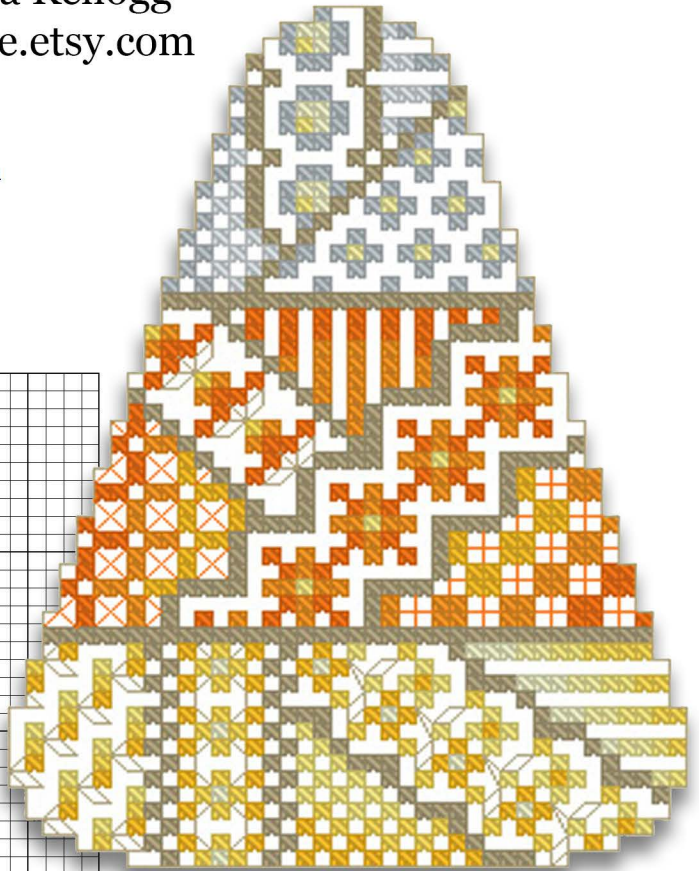
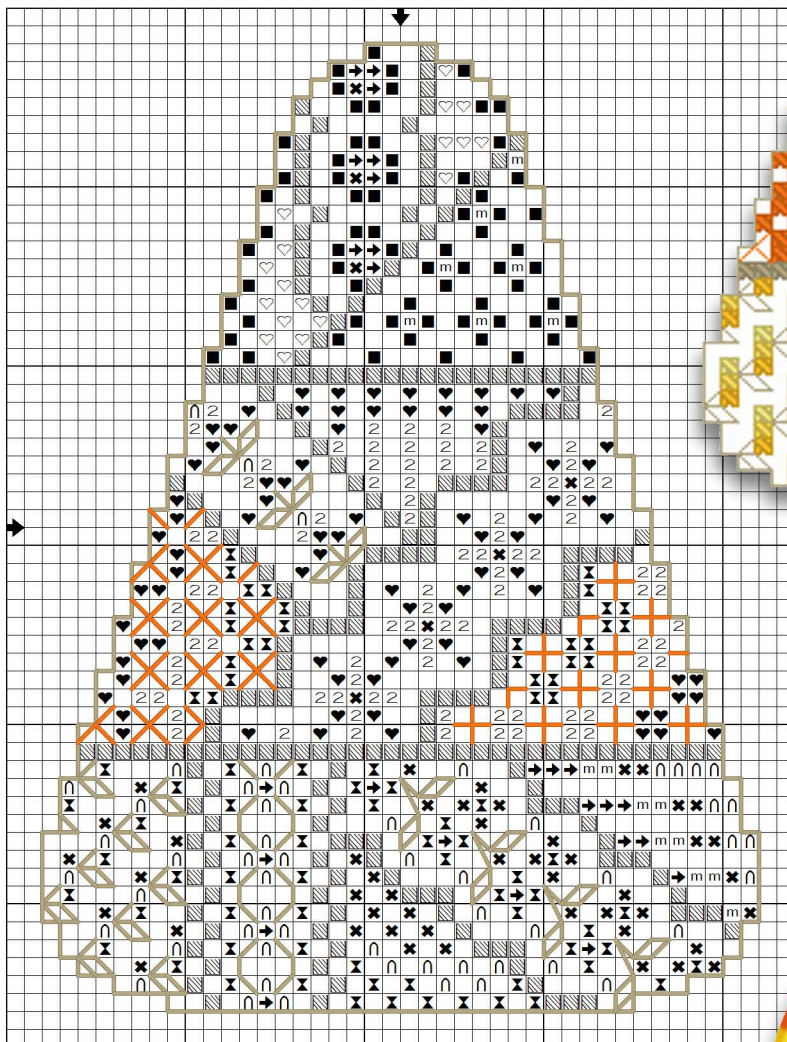
Kitty & Me Designs

Crazy Candy Corn

Complimentary Cross Stitch Pattern
by Pamela Kellogg
kittyandme.etsy.com

Fabric: Aida 14, White
40w X 54h Stitches
Size: 14 Count, 2-3/4w X 3-3/4h in

Use 2 strands of DMC for cross stitch
Use 1 strand of Kreinik for cross stitch
If working this design on 14 ct Perforated Paper,
double the number of strands.



- 415
- ♥ 740
- 2 741
- ✕ 742
- ∩ 743
- ✕ 744
- m 745
- ♡ 762
- ➔ 3823
- ▨ 002 Kreinik #4

Backstitching 1 strand
— 740
Kreinik #4 002