Newsletter of the Blue Ribbon Chapter

American Needlepoint Guild, Inc.
Volume 10, Issue 11
November 1, 2026

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Indicates change.

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

Calendar

Tuesday, November 17	**Monthly meeting – Teams**
6:00 - 6:45 pm	Log in to Teams; social/stitching time
6:45 - 7:15 pm	Chapter business meeting
7:15 - 8:30 pm	Study topic – Kick off WIP Challenge
Tuesday, December 15	**Monthly meeting –Teams**
6:00 - 6:45 pm	Social/stitching time; log in to Teams
6:45 - 7:15 pm	Board and business meetings
7:15 - 8:30 pm	Study topic – WIP Challenge
Tuesday, January 19	**Monthly meeting –Teams**
6:00 - 6:45 pm	Social/stitching time; log in to Teams
6:45 - 7:15 pm	Business meeting
7:15 - 8:30 pm	Study topic – WIP Challenge
Tuesday, February 16	**Monthly meeting –Teams**
6:00 - 6:45 pm	Social/stitching time; log in to Teams
6:45 - 7:15 pm	Business meeting
7:15 - 8:30 pm	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, October 10, 2026

Business Meeting

- President Cindy Baldwin called the meeting to order at 1:36 pm.
- Members present – Cindy Baldwin, Robin Rossignol, Julia Ackerman, Beth Ellicott, Heidi Parker
- Officer Reports
  - Secretary – No changes to the September minutes.
  - Treasurer Report – Checking account balance for August and September was $1,092.59. Still need financial audit.
  - Membership – No report.

Old Business

- President materials transferred.
- Audit financial books.
- Venmo renewal – Jamie Randall will explore options with Hills Bank.
- Starting next year, our State Fair prize is increased to $50.
- Meeting format discussion
  - Cindy looked at the Busse Branch Library's facilities (https://www.crlibrary.org/bussebranch), and we could use one of their rooms for free. We'll just need to make sure that we get it scheduled. Their calendar is a 3-month rolling calendar, so it should be easy to keep ahead once we get started. The rooms are set up with a large screen and can support Zoom meetings, so we should have no trouble with Teams. We will still need to bring a computer. If everyone agrees with this at the November meeting, we'll plan to have the March meeting at Busse.
  - Jamee Klein has another commitment on the 3rd Thursday, but since we are probably not going to go back to K of C, we could switch back to the 2nd Tuesday. We'll decide this in November as well.
  - A couple of people responded to Cindy's request for opinions on meeting options. Their comments are excerpted below.
    - Jamie Randall likes the idea of starting new projects at quarterly meetings. "*The Busse Library seems like a nice compromise so we can still hold the in-person part of the meetings and have the equipment without us hauling it back and forth constantly. I think my concern with the Busse Library is that we might not get on their schedule, at least not right away, because it's new. But I suppose in that case, we could just revert to Teams*."
    - Ruth Topp likes "...*the virtual meetings because it means that she can attend and talk to real stitching people*." She prefers Zoom over Teams but has figured both out.
      "*I belong to a few ANG chapters and I go to several meetings virtually while they may be doing hybrid like ours. Two of the most recent meetings I've been to have done similar things and I find both of them beneficial. One chapter has an enormous amount of members across the US (and maybe even worldwide) and they are virtual only. From what I can guess, the majority of the members are seasoned stitchers. But for both chapters, each month there is the business meeting and a program. The program is either a lecture (with a slide deck available) or a member talking about a particular project for everyone to do independently. The projects usually include a pdf file (available by request) and stepping through the project with information on problem areas or things to be aware of. Both of these chapters also do a variety of weekend classes (in-person and virtual with some allowing ghosts).*
      Being virtual, you widen your net on members and this also helps with being able to sponsor classes/projects, and so on. Nothing that you are not already familiar with. It can limit hands on assistance and forces people to find people online to email, watch videos, ask questions, or trial and error, etc. Most of which I've had to do because of location and lack of local stitchers. If I were in the Iowa City/Cedar Rapids area, I would definitely go to in-person meetings regularly.
      One of the chapters I belong to has a "stitch chat" every Saturday morning, They use the free Zoom meeting option - so 40 minutes or so and then as they say "poof" everyone is gone. It started during covid, but continued because they really enjoy it. Someone sends out an email mid-week with the Zoom link and asking for pictures - current projects, finished projects, stuff you have questions about, anything really. You log in at the designated time and chat/listen/watch.
      Everyone is in their Saturday morning best (some disheveled, some not). The host pulls up the pictures, you talk about them and move on. I kind of enjoy these. It gives me a bit of connection to other stitchers and I find all of the people on the call have a good, different perspective."
  - Should we switch back to Zoom? The cost would be about $150/year.

New Business

- Need to discuss membership's expectations from our group.

Announcements

- Next meeting is November 17 on Teams.

Meeting adjourned at 2:08 pm.

Respectfully submitted,
Julia Ackerman
Secretary

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.

November Study Topic – WIP Challenge Kickoff

The WIP Challenge will be our study topic for December, January, and February, but we will kick off the challenge in November. You can choose anything for this challenge and set any goal you want. The goal should be a stretch, but achievable, and measurable. Please send a photo and your goal to Cindy before the November meeting. You'll bring your WIPs to the March meeting and we'll see how we all did. For a little incentive, we'll put the names of people who met their goal into a drawing for 2028 dues.

Speaking of incentive, Cindy never reported on the results of the 2025-26 WIP Challenge. One person achieved their goal and that was Ruth Topp. So, Ruth's 2027 dues will be covered by the chapter.

Dorset Button Resources

The Making Dorset Buttons group on Facebook has an excellent compilation of resources for Dorset buttons, including a bibliography, supplies needed and sources for the supplies, and a discussion about thread button types. It is posted at https://www.facebook.com/groups/575152804733717/media/albums. Follow the page to see the wide variety of ways people make and use the buttons.

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.

- December, January, February 2027 – WIP Challenge
- March, April 2027 – WIP Challenge results. 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.

Interesting Needlework and Related Info on the Internet

- Threading the Needle: Fiber Art in Iowa, October 3, 2026 – January 17, 2027, Cedar Rapids Museum of Art. https://www.crma.org/exhibitions/current/Threading-the-Needle-Fiber-Art-in-Iowa
- Drawn Threads and Running Stitches. A two-day conference at the Ulster Folk Museum exploring embroidery, textiles, and costume with a particular focus on whitework. https://www.ulsterfolkmuseum.org/whats-on/drawn-threads-and-running-stitches The

dates of the conference are November 12-13 and online viewing is an option. **REGISTRATION ENDS ON 11/3.** The online tickets are very reasonable (just under $15 for one day) but presentations start at 10 am, Ulster time, which is 4 am here. Presentations will be available for viewing for 2 weeks after the conference. Isabella Rosner (Royal School of Needlework), Tricia Nguyen (Thistle Threads), and Yvette Stanton (Vetty Creations) are speaking on Friday (11/13).

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

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.

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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/

At the Ball Park



General Instructions:

-- To keep work taut, stretcher bars or scroll bars are highly recommended.

-- Start all threads with a waste knot on top of canvas; end all threads by weaving them into the back of existing work. Avoid carrying threads across the back of unstitched canvas.

-- When using the variegated thread, you stitch with 1 ply of the 4-ply cotton. Cut a length of thread, then separate it into 4 plies; but stitch with only 1 ply.

-- When using the solid color Pebbly Perle, stitch with the whole strand.

-- Before attaching canvas to stretcher bars or scroll bars, mark your starting point in the center of canvas.

-- When using metallic ribbons or braids, cut and stitch with shorter pieces to avoid fraying.

-- NOTE: Each LINE on the graphs represents one THREAD of the canvas.

Stitching Instructions:

Diamond Mound: Find and mark the center of your canvas. Count up (or down) to stitch the large Rhodes Star that creates the center "mound", using 1 ply of the variegated 4-ply Overture V103. With 1 strand of the gold Treasure Braid HG81, stitch the 4 Double Crosses at the top, botton, and sides of the large Rhodes Star. Fill in with Rhodes Squares alternating between Treasure Braid HG81 and Overture V103.

Narrow Green Borders: Count out from tips of the small Rhodes Squares to Straight Stitch all the dark green border lines, using 1 strand of Pebbly Perle P56.

Infield Areas: Inside the first set of green borders, work the green fans with 1 strand of Neon Rays+ NP105. After all four of the green fans are stitched, fill in the "infield" areas with long Diagonal Satin Stitches using 1 ply of the variegated Overture V103. [Add beads after all stitching is done.]

Running the Bases: Inside the second set of green borders, work a diagonal row of Double Crosses, alternating variegated Crosses with gold Crosses. Stitch the variegated Double Crosses with 1 ply of Overture V103; stitch the gold Crosses with 1 strand of Treasure Braid HG81.

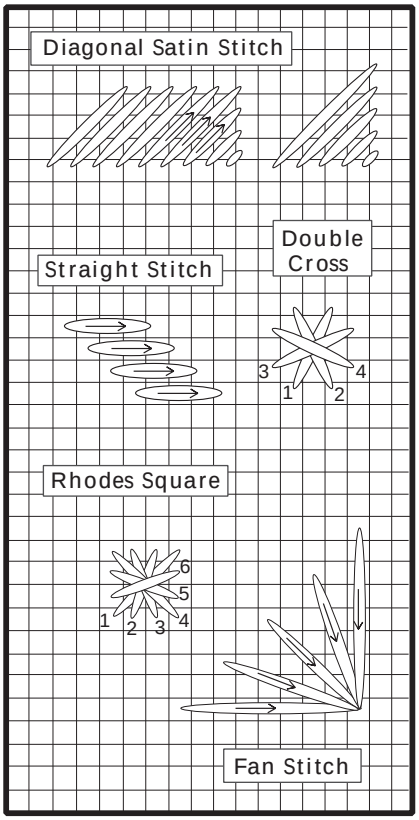
Outfield Areas: Work the outfield areas in Diagonal Satin Stitches, using 1 ply of the variegated Overture V103. Create the green Fan Stitches with 1 strand of Neon Rays+ NP105. [Add beads after all stitching is done.]

Wide Outer Border: Diagonal Satin Stitch the wide outer border, going over five threads of canvas, with 1 strand of Pebbly Perle P56. *NOTE: The border stitch direction changes in each quadrant of the design.* At the border centers, stitch the inset triangles with 1 strand of Neon Rays+ NP105, adding gold accent stitches with 1 strand of Treasure Braid HG81. Work Fan Stitch corners with 1 strand of Neon Rays+ NP105, adding the gold accent stitches with 1 strand of Treasure Braid HG81. [Add beads after all stitching is done.]

Finishing Touches: Add some beads - I've shown a few places to put beads on the main graph.

Finishing Ideas: This small square design can be inset in a pillow; put on a box top; set on point and made into an ornament; or put in a small frame. Have fun with it!

These are the different stitches used in this design:



Designed for Rainbow Gallery by

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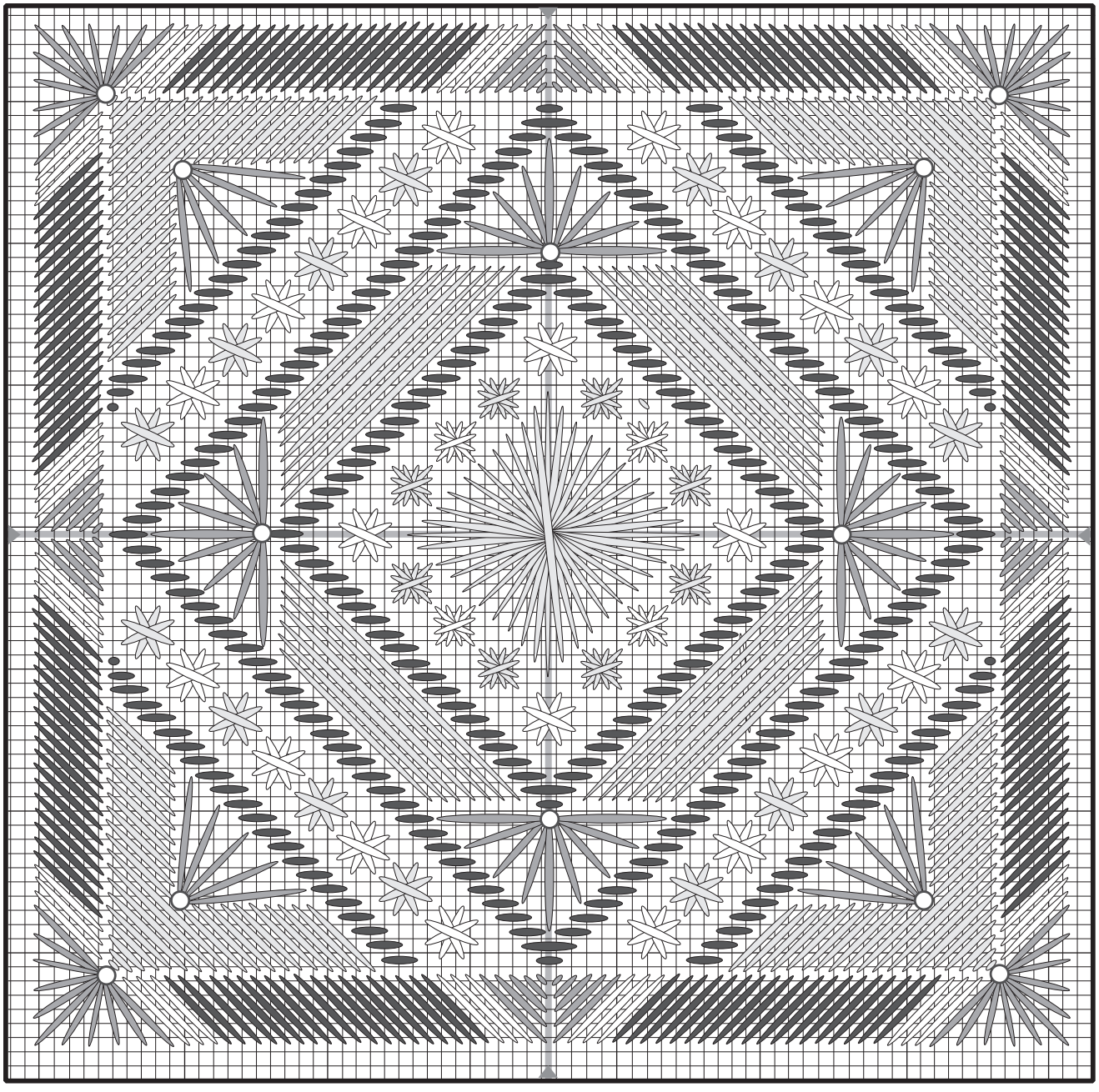
At the Ball Park

Symbol	Materials	Design
	Overture (a 4-ply cotton), V103 - "Emeralds"	Count: 72h x 72w threads Size: 18 ct: 4"h x 4"w (Cut canvas at least 8" x 8")
	Pebbly Perle, P56 - Christmas green	
	Neon Rays+, NP105 - Christmas green	*This design can be done in lots of different thread colors, on lots of different canvas colors. Use pale, bright or dark thread colors on light, medium or dark canvas.* ***Pick your variegated thread first,*** *then match one solid color and two types of metallic threads to it. Have fun playing with this design!*
	Treasure Braid (8 strand), HG81 - gold	
○	OPTIONAL: gold beads	
	#22 tapestry needle	
	8" x 8" 18 ct. mono canvas, eggshell	



NOTE: Each LINE on this graph represents ONE thread of the canvas.

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