



# Carolinan RegionNews

[www.egacarolinan.org](http://www.egacarolinan.org)

**1st Quarter, February 2026**  
**Volume 43, Issue 1**

*The Carolinan Region, EGA includes 15 chapters located in North Carolina, South Carolina, and parts of Georgia and Virginia representing about 300 members.*

## Message from the Region Director

*Submitted by Gail Smith, Carolinan Region Director*

Holidays are a special way to reconnect with family and friends, when we have traditions to observe. It is when the daily routine is set aside for just a bit. I hope that all of you had time for your traditions, your family – be it related or thru friendship – and are ready to step back into the future.

The CAR certainly did step forward, due to the hard work of Marguerite Ewing, Florence Chapter, and Carole Overton, Aiken Stitchin’ Belles Chapter, as the Spring Retreat is our first on-line registration event! Just remember that you still need to make your own hotel reservations. Both the Spring and the Fall Retreats will be hosted by the Florence Chapter. I am very thankful for this generous gift & can’t wait to see what delights they will have for us. Be sure to read about the project challenge about what America means to you.

The region is celebrating its 45<sup>th</sup> anniversary this year. We will be the first region to have its own anniversary ornament! Mary Grosser, Tryon Chapter, designed a sweet little ornament

Calendar/Events/Important Dates	
3/1/2026	Deadline for Mary-Dick Digges Scholarship
4/1/2026	Deadline for Marjorie Jones Scholarship
4/24-26/2026	CAR Spring Retreat, Rock Hill, SC
5/1/2026	Deadline for Penny Evans Scholarship
9/25-9/27,2026	CAR Fall Retreat Rock Hill, SC
10/9-10/14/2026	EGA National Seminar, Orlando, FL

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*The mission of the Embroiderers’ Guild of America is to inspire passion for the needle arts through education and the celebration of its heritage.*  
<https://egausa.org/>

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that captures what 45 years means. The design is being sent to the Chapter Presidents. Mary expressed an idea that the members could stitch the ornament in their choice of colors and bring them to the retreats to display. Anyone interested in such a challenge?

There is a lot of information in the RegioNews as we begin the new year. Please read it & discuss it. Plan to send in an article. Share an experience.

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## ***CAR Spring Retreat 2026***

Come celebrate the 250th Birthday of America in stitching and samplers. You'll enjoy a weekend filled with wonderful stitching with friends. This retreat will feature teaching tables, opportunity baskets, and stash reallocation activities, as well as some "History with Stitching" through the years. Bring a project that reflects what America means to you. It could be a sampler, a saying or anything that reminds you of the country that is celebrating 250 years!!

We will be gathering at the Hampton Inn & Suites in Rock Hill, SC. It is centrally located to the freeway and a variety of restaurants, plus a Wal-Mart & Hobby Lobby are close by. Attendees need to make their own hotel reservations.

The Florence Chapter is planning both the Spring and Fall Retreats for 2026. After the success of the Teaching tables at our Fall Retreat 2025, they have scheduled three Teaching tables for the Spring Retreat including, 'History of Samplers', 'Tools of the Trade' and 'Types of Samplers'. The popular 'Stitch with Friends', Opportunity Baskets and Stash reallocation will all be taking place.

The CAR will be utilizing online registration for this event for the first time. However, payment will still be MADE BY CHECK for Spring Retreat.

### **REGISTRATION IS NOW OPEN FOR THE CAR SPRING RETREAT 2026!!**

The retreat will be held April 24-26 at the Hampton Inn in Rock Hill, SC. Registration closes April 13, 2026. You can access the registration packet by clicking on this link: <https://www.egacarolinas.org/wp-content/uploads/2026/01/SR-brochure-final1-10.pdf>

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## ***CAR Website: Your Source for News***

*Submitted by Carole Overton, CAR Website Coordinator*

Have you spent time on the Carolinas Region’s website lately? This user-friendly site can keep you updated on the latest information about CAR activities and events. Here are just a few examples:

**Home Page Announcements** – Scroll down to the bottom of the home page to see the latest announcements, including the latest updates about upcoming events, important information, and helpful reminders.

**CAR Events Calendar**—Access the CAR calendar of events by using the Quick Links menu found on the right side of the home page and on most main landing pages. Refer to the calendar to help plan your participation in CAR’s ZOOM and in-person events.

**CAR Newsletters** – Access the current and past issues of **RegioNews**, the CAR’s quarterly newsletter. Always available through the Quick Links menu, the newsletters will keep you informed about current and upcoming issues and can serve as a good historical reference for previous region activities.

Always available, the website can be your guide to what’s happening and can help you stay involved: <https://www.egacarolinas.org/>

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## ***CAR Mailing List: Stay in the Know***

*Submitted by Carole Overton, CAR Website Coordinator*

The Carolinas Region moved to an “opt-in” mailing list several years ago, which means that members must register themselves. If you have not already done so, you can follow this simple 2-step process:

1. Click on this link (<https://carolinas-region-ega.ck.page/486b809989>) and fill out the registration form. Fill it out in full, making sure to select any or all of the ZOOM options that you want to hear about. Submit the form.
2. IMMEDIATELY (within 30 – 60 seconds) you should receive a second email asking you to confirm. (This email will come from the CAR’s Website Coordinator: Carole Overton.) Open that email and click on the CONFIRM button. (If you do not see the message asking you to confirm, please check your SPAM folder because that is where it might have been sent.) If you do not confirm, the system will not add you to the database, so this is a critical step.

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If you have any trouble registering, please send a message to [website@egacarolinas.org](mailto:website@egacarolinas.org) so we can help you.

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### ***EGA Scholarships***

The Mary-Dick Digges Scholarship Surface Embroidery Class provides funds for students taking a class in surface embroidery, which includes crewel, Japanese embroidery and stumpwork. Applications are due by March 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

The Marjorie Jones Scholarship Crewel Embroidery Class provides funds for students taking crewel classes at EGA National or Regional Seminars. Applications are due April 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

The Penny Evans Scholarship Embroidery Class provides funds for students taking classes offered by EGA, The Royal School of Needlework, the Japanese Embroidery Center and Guilds of London Institute. Applications are due May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026.

For details and applications on these scholarship opportunities please visit the EGA website: <https://egausa.org/scholarships-and-awards/>

### ***Gold Thread Awards***

The annual awards recognize outstanding individuals who have given freely of their time and talents, and best exemplify EGA's purpose. A total of 12 individuals may be acknowledged – one of each region, with a national recipient selected from among the region recipients and announced at our National Seminar. Nominations due May 1<sup>st</sup>, 2026. Access the nomination form: <https://egausa.org/app/uploads/2024/10/Gold-Thread-Award-2024.pdf>

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### ***Note from Dee Pierce, Carolina Region Secretary***

"I am very excited about this opportunity as secretary for the Carolina Region EGA. I've completed a couple of meeting minutes for the executive committee and with the patience and help from the committee I feel ready for the spring retreat in April. I'll be contacting the chapters to see if they want their retreat packet electronically. Looking forward to seeing you in Rock Hill."

### ***Note from Barbara Dexter-Smith, RegioNews***

The deadline for submissions to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Quarter RegioNews is May 1, 2026. Please send me information on interesting events in your chapters to [newsletter@egacarolinas.org](mailto:newsletter@egacarolinas.org)

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## **Special Interest Groups**

*Submitted by Janet Noble, Education*

### **Technique: Beading**

**Meeting Date:** 2nd Thursday

**Meeting Time:** 7 pm Eastern, 6 pm Central, 5 pm Mountain, 4 pm Pacific

**Contact:** [beading@egausa.org](mailto:beading@egausa.org)

**Hosted by:** EGA National, Tina Marie Maes

### **Technique: Beading**

**Meeting Date:** 4th Saturday

**Meeting Time:** 3 pm Eastern, 2 pm Central, 1 pm Mountain, Noon Pacific

**Contact:** [beading@egausa.org](mailto:beading@egausa.org)

**Hosted by:** EGA National, Tina Marie Maes

### **Technique: Counted Thread**

**Meeting Date:** 1st Sunday

**Meeting Time:** 3 pm Eastern, 2 pm Central, 1pm Mountain, Noon Pacific

**Contact:** [countedthread@egausa.org](mailto:countedthread@egausa.org)

**Hosted by:** EGA National, Ina Gibson, Jana Bass, Wendy Lynn, alternating

### **Technique: Metal Threads**

**Meeting Date:** 1st Monday

**Meeting Time:** 7 pm Eastern, 6 pm Central, 5 pm Mountain, 4 pm Pacific

**Contact:** [metalthreads@egausa.org](mailto:metalthreads@egausa.org)

**Hosted by:** Dayton Chapter, Jana Bass

### **Technique: Silk, Metal and Surface**

**Meeting Date:** 2nd Wednesday

**Meeting Time:** 7 pm Eastern, 6 pm Central, 5 pm Mountain, 4 pm Pacific

**Contact:** [silkmetalsurface@egausa.org](mailto:silkmetalsurface@egausa.org)

**Hosted by:** Central Florida – Jane Allingham and Margaret Kinsey

### **Technique: Stumpwork/Dimensional/Mixed Media**

**Meeting Date:** 3rd Sunday

**Meeting Time:** 3PM to 5PM Eastern

**Contact:** [stumpwork@egausa.org](mailto:stumpwork@egausa.org)

**Hosted by:** Jean Hubsch

### **Technique: Surface Embroidery**

**Meeting Date:** 3rd Saturday

**Meeting Time:** 2 pm Eastern, 1 pm Central, Noon Mountain, 11 am Pacific

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**Contact:** [surfaceembroidery@egausa.org](mailto:surfaceembroidery@egausa.org)

**Hosted by:** EGA National, Leslie Brady

**Technique:** **Surface Embroidery**

**Meeting Date:** 2nd Sunday

**Meeting Time:** 2 pm Eastern, 1 pm Central, Noon Mountain, 11 am Pacific

**Contact:** [surfaceembroidery@egausa.org](mailto:surfaceembroidery@egausa.org)

**Hosted by:** EGA National, Wendy Lynn

No chapter membership is required to participate in any of these groups. All are invited: Members at large, Chapter members, nonmembers. Come meet other stitchers like you.

Interested in starting a group for another technique or another date?

Contact: [specialinterestgroups@egausa.org](mailto:specialinterestgroups@egausa.org)

Interested in a virtual Dimensional Embroidery Special Interest Group?

Contact [stumpwork@egausa.org](mailto:stumpwork@egausa.org).

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## **CAR Teachers**

*Submitted by Barbara Dexter-Smith, RegioNews*

We have many talented teachers in our Carolinas Region and I am sure many of you have been fortunate enough to take classes with them. Here is a list of the teachers and the type of classes they teach.

Terri Bay	Hardanger, Blackwork, Ukrainian
Kurdy Biggs	Counted
Katherine Diuguid	Surface
Carol Peao Currier	Crewel
Jean Farish	Counted
Cara Hayes	Canvas
Joyce Houck	Thread painting
Kim Sanders	Surface, Stumpwork, Crewel
Laura Smith	Mixed media
Megan Smith	Art history of needlework, Technique
Gail Stafford	Canvas

Contact Janet Noble, the CAR Director of Education, for more information.

This year RegioNews will feature interviews with some of the teachers. In this issue we learn more about Kim Sanders.

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## ***Interview with Kim Sanders***

*Submitted by Barbara Dexter-Smith, RegioNews*

Our first featured CAR region teacher is Kim Sanders, a member of The Laurel Chapter. The following are excerpts from the EGA Blog, “Interview with Kim Sanders: Exploring the practical beauty of Stumpwork and Smocking” (March 6, 2024).

“Kim Sanders is an EGA-certified teacher in Crewel and Surface Embroidery, and a Master Craftsman in Surface Embroidery and Smocking. Kim is a frequent and popular teacher at regional and national seminars, guilds, and shops, and a constant feature in EGA’s selection of Group Correspondence Courses. She has also been featured in multiple video interviews with [Creative Living](#) outlining the history and features of pulled and drawn thread embroidery, smocking, stumpwork, and silk ribbon embroidery.”

*You are an EGA-certified teacher in Crewel and Surface Embroidery, and a Master Craftsman in Surface Embroidery and Smocking. Do you have a favorite embroidery technique?*

“I am a magpie. How do you pick a favorite child? I love almost all embroidery techniques. However, there are so many beautiful forms of embroidery, one has to narrow one’s focus. Smocking makes me happy because it is a way for embroidery to be worn. Crewel intrigues me as it gives us a small glimpse of women’s history and their efforts to adorn their homes. Plus, I am very drawn to the rich mellow colors traditionally used.

I suppose my current favorite is stumpwork for two reasons. If you incorporate human figures, it’s a great way to capture a moment in a story. The second reason is because there aren’t any limitations on the embroidery techniques, threads, or ground you use. If you wish to place your figure against a brick wall, use a counted ground so it is easier to embroider straight lines. If you find stitching enumerable leaves on a tree boring, use silk ribbon where a single stitch creates an entire leaf. If you desire a bit of shine or glitter,

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add beads or metal threads. Any type of embroidery that gives the result you want is acceptable to compliment the padded and wired shapes that define the technique.

What I observe around me is often inspiring: flowers, fruits, birds and people. Occasionally it will be more abstract. With whitework and smocking, I often embroider combinations of stitches on a doodle cloth. One stitch might strike me as perfect for a basket or the center of a daisy. Sometimes I start sketching shapes or arranging cut paper shapes to develop balance and spacing. Very often the inspiration is to meet certain criteria for a class I want to teach.”

*You have a long history of teaching embroidery techniques and designing embroidery patterns. Where did your love of embroidery begin?*

“I was a great reader as a child. I was fascinated by stories like Hitty: Her First Hundred Years where a girl was engaged in needlework. My paternal grandmother and great aunt supported my interest and patiently taught me basic embroidery stitches when I was eight. My maternal grandmother had a number of coffee table art books. I was fascinated with paintings that showed embroidery on historic costumes.

Then when I was eleven, my mother had a small crewel embroidery kit she intended to do herself. Bored over Christmas vacation, I asked if I could “put in a few stitches”. A week later, the embroidery was completed, albeit with some puckering as I didn’t see the necessity of a hoop. The advantage of being a child and beginning to embroider is it’s more about the process, than the product. As a child, one often enjoys the process without being overly critical of the quality of the product.

Designing came a bit later. I majored in textiles in college and had several required design courses. They weren’t specifically for embroidery, but the information on color, balance, texture, etc. applies no matter whether the medium is paint or thread. I began slowly with embroidery design. At first it was a matter of changing the colors of threads to go with the colors in my home. Later, the focus on design was because I could not find exactly what I had in mind so I would borrow bits and pieces from published designs and reassemble them.

My big impetus for original design was the EGA Design ICC and the requirements for original work in Master Craftsman programs and EGA Teacher Certification. I find it difficult to wake up one day and say, “Okay, I am going to create something original.” Rather, when there is a specific purpose, I have a starting point that is concrete. I often photograph flowers, so frequently I use those as embroidery subjects.”

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*You've studied and designed so many different types of embroideries. Is there a particular type of embroidery that brand new embroiderers should pursue to ease them into the hobby? Smocking/Silk Embroidery/Thread Painting/Drawn Thread/etc.?*

“When I am introducing a brand-new embroiderer to our art form, I try to find a project that has a high potential for them to be successful and that can be completed in a relatively short period of time. There is nothing so discouraging as beginning with too difficult or too large of an embroidery. It's also very important that the beginner be guided to high quality threads and fabrics.

My favorite introduction to surface embroidery is silk ribbon embroidery. It creates a beautiful embroidery with a minimal number of stitches. Crewel embroidery is also a good way to begin surface embroidery as long as basic stitches are chosen. The thread used is larger than stranded cotton so it is easier to see. I particularly like crewel thread as an introduction to the long and short stitch used in needle painting as the strands blend together so well.

Many embroiderers begin with counted cross stitch or counted canvas. Both are a good introduction to a whole range of counted embroidery techniques and develop the ability to read a chart and a stitch graph. A small pulled thread project is a good next step after cross-stitch.”

Kim is scheduled to teach three classes at Seminar Central 2026 in Orlando: Olivia (Stumpwork, Silk Ribbon and Counted ground); Archimedes the Owl (Pulled and Counted thread); Crewel Vine (Crewel).

I asked Kim about the inspiration for the Olivia class

“The story behind Olivia...

Olivia is my four-year-old granddaughter who is extremely fond of dressing up as a princess. I was thinking of her when this design came about. There is something magical about a little girl surrounded by a garden of flowers. I wanted anyone embroidering this design to be able to create a figure that resembled a special child in their lives. So, I designed a sampler of busts showing a variety of hair colors, hair styles and skin tones so that a student can personalize their embroidery as they prefer. The students will choose one of those for their version of Olivia. Stumpwork is a time intensive technique. To balance the time investment, I chose silk ribbon for the botanicals because it embroiders more quickly than most other surface techniques.”

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Members of The Laurel Chapter and of the CAR region are so lucky to have Kim, who is so willing to share her talents and skills with all of us.

Pictures show Archimedes the Owl and Olivia.



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## **CHAPTER NEWS**

### ***Florence Chapter News***

***Submitted by Marguerite Ewing***

The Florence Chapter has been working hard to bring you the 2026 Seminars!! The entire year's theme is "Celebrating America Through Stitching". The goal is to work on a piece that you feel represents America and what it means to you. Our main subject will be Samplers.

Samplers have such a rich tradition in America and across the Globe. We will explore the history of stitching and how important stitching is to our history. We are offering teaching tables on the history of samplers, tools our ancestors had to work with and the types of samplers and their uses.

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We are going to have Opportunity Baskets and Stash Reallocation as well as fun and games.

Please come join us in celebrating our heritage. Looking forward to seeing you there!!!

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## Chapter Newsletters

Many of our chapters have hard working newsletter editors that create a monthly newsletter for their chapter members to share local information. Here are a sampling of screenshots from some January newsletters featuring their Holiday celebrations.

From Charlotte's Web, Charlotte Chapter, Gail Levin, Newsletter Editor

### December Annual Christmas Social and Ornament Exchange

The Charlotte Chapter ended 2025 with a visit to A Cause for Tea in Monroe, NC. This delightful tea house has a focus on empowering women and children from their sales. They were all decked out for Christmas from their tea room to their shop. We enjoyed a very delicious tea and small plates, camaraderie, and the joy of being together. Pam C. coordinated this year's social and presented each of us with a custom bag of goodies to take home.

Many of us also participated in our annual ornament exchange. The ornaments this year showcased a range of techniques and designs and participants went home with something handcrafted by a talented sister in stitching to admire for years to come.



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From the Chicora Chatter, Chicora Stitchers Chapter, Melanie Scott, Newsletter Editor

## With Gratitude

Thank you to Jane Toll for arranging our Christmas Luncheon at The Hippy Hen House. Thank you also to those who provided the many table favors and ornament exchange. The event was delightful.



## Members' Gallery

Our ornament exchange at the Christmas Luncheon exhibited the many talents of our members.



From Laurel Leaves, The Laurel Chapter, Peggy O'Connor, Newsletter Editor

## *December Program*

Sue Osterberg installed, for their second terms, Nova Shultz as Treasurer and Diane Skelton as Membership Director.

We also had our ornament exchange and enjoyed a catered luncheon.



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### Help Wanted

The Carolinas Region is looking for a few good workers: We have positions that need to be filled. If you are interested in one or more of these opportunities, contact the Chair of the Nominating Committee at [nominating@egacarolinas.org](mailto:nominating@egacarolinas.org):

Assistant Region Director

Director of Education

Seminar Director

*We need you!*

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### EGA Chapter Reporting Requirements

**Attn:** Chapter presidents, region reps, and editors: it is your responsibility to be sure your membership officer, secretary, and treasurer know when and where to send these items.

WHAT	WHEN	WHERE
1. Minutes of board and general meetings (unless included in the chapter's newsletter)	Within the month	Region Director
2. Membership roster (Plural members)	Within the month	Region Director CAR Newsletter Editor; Website Coord.
3. Region dues and membership information (Plural members)	Within the month	Region Treasurer
4. Chapter newsletters	When sent to members	Region Director; Assistant Region Director; Editor, RegioNews; Region Outreach Chair
5. Education questions/information	As needed	Region Director of Education
6. Annual chapter report	By December 1	Region Director
7. Annual financial report	By February 15	Region Director; EGA Headquarters

<b>Carolinas Region Executive Committee</b>		
Region Director	Gail Smith	regiondirector@egacarolinas.org
Assistant Region Director		asstregiondirector@egacarolinas.org
Director of Education	Janet Noble	education@egacarolinas.org
Secretary	Dee Pierce	secretary@egacarolinas.org
Treasurer	Nova Shulz	treasurer@egacarolinas.org
<b>Committee Chairs</b>		
Bylaws	Jeni Huebner	<a href="mailto:bylaws@egacarolinas.org">bylaws@egacarolinas.org</a>
Community Outreach	Millie Strobel	outreach@egacarolinas.org
RegioNews	Barbara Dexter-Smith	newsletter@egacarolinas.org
Seminar Director		seminardirector@egacarolinas.org
Website Coordinator	Carole Overton	website@egacarolinas.org
<b>Nominating Committee</b>		
Nominating	Katrina Lawrimore (-2029)	nominatingchair@egacarolinas.org
Nominating 2	Nancy Gannon (-2028)	
Nominating 3	Vacant ( -2029)	