



# Carolinan RegionNews

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

**3rd Quarter, August 2026  
Volume 43, Issue 3**

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

*Submitted by Gail Smith, Carolinas Region Director*

Hello to all the stitchers in the CAR. Summer is always an interesting time of the year. We live in the coastal areas, the mid-states, & the mountains, so our weather is always a bit different for each of us. What we all share, I hope, is a time for stitching. Many of us are working on Christmas ornaments for chapter gift exchanges. Or some of us are working on a SAL & are a little behind. Perhaps it is a class project you spend time with or digging out a WIP from the depths of a bag or closet. The thing is, there is a bit of extra daylight now, so try to make the most of it.

Fall Retreat 2026 is just around the corner! It was a little challenging to pivot to a different hotel, while remaining in the Rock Hill, SC, area. I do hope you like La Quinta & its staff. If you don't know it, I am a *walking open-door*, so should you have a challenge, or want to express your opinion of the new location, please find me & let's chat.

I am excited about the programming that Marguerite Ewing has been working on for our retreat. Thank the members of the Florence chapter for their work in making this retreat a delightful gathering. Remember to bring your Region 45<sup>th</sup> Anniversary ornament (I have made 2 of them) to display and your patriotic projects you have completed, or are you possibly still working on it. . . hmmm? Leslie Brady will be teaching a notebook class on

| Calendar/Events/Important Dates |                                    |
|---------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| 9/25-9/27 2026                  | CAR Fall Retreat Rock Hill, SC     |
| 10/9-10/14 2026                 | EGA National Seminar, Orlando FL   |
| 2/2027-4/2027                   | EGA WinterStitch (virtual classes) |
| 4/23-4/25/2027                  | CAR Spring Retreat Rock Hill, SC   |
| 9/24-9/26/2027                  | CAR Fall Retreat Rock Hill, SC     |
| 9/15-9/19, 2027                 | EGA National Seminar, Tucson, AZ   |

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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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Thread Painting. Those of you who are in the class are in for a treat! The Silent Auction will be going on from Friday to late afternoon Saturday. Make it a point to check out the entries & place your bets. Saturday night is a surprise, but that's when the winners of the Silent Auction are announced. We take checks or cash; we can't process credit cards or eTransfers yet. The retreat will host the bi-annual Board meeting. I appreciate all the stitchers who are interested in the business of the region & plan to attend the meeting. See you at the retreat.

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## ***CAR Fall Retreat 2026***

Registration is open now for the CAR Fall Retreat, September 25-27, 2026. Sign up for a fun-filled and relaxing weekend of stitching with friends at the La Quinta in Rock Hill, SC. The theme of America 250 continues and we also celebrate the 45<sup>th</sup> Birthday for the Carolinas Region of EGA. The weekend features a silent auction (chapters can submit two auction items) and chapter sales tables. The Board of Directors meeting will be held on Sunday, September 27.

Remember to make your La Quinta hotel reservations by September 1<sup>st</sup> to receive the group rate.

The CAR Fall 2026 Retreat Registration brochure is available on the CAR website (<https://www.egacarolinas.org/>) under the Quick Links menu.

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## ***New Regional Board Members***

Dee Pierce, CAR Secretary, announces the election of two new CAR Board members. Heather Rushforth, incoming Assistant Region Director, is a member of the Piedmont chapter and has been a member of EGA since 2010. Heather has served as Outreach Chair, Secretary, and President of the Piedmont chapter.

Cathy Wilson, incoming Website Coordinator, is a member of the Cardinal Chapter and joined EGA in November 2025. Cathy has a background in website administration. We wish them the best for their time on the CAR board and will support them in any way necessary. Welcome Heather & Cathy!

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## CAR's Quick Links Menu

*Submitted by Carole Overton, CAR Website Coordinator*

Have you looked at the Carolinas Region website lately? You can find some helpful information at the touch of a button.

The announcements at the bottom of the home page will keep you up to date with major items of interest but in this article, we will focus on the QUICK LINKS menu on the right side of the screen. Each link takes you to a different page:

- [Announcements](#) – access the current announcements on the home page
- [CAR Events Calendar](#) – access our region's calendar of events
- [CAR Fall 2026 Retreat](#) – access the CAR 2026 Fall Retreat brochure and registration forms
- [CAR Newsletter: RegioNews](#) – access current and past issues of the CAR newsletter
- [CAR Scholarships and Awards](#) – access information and application procedures for CAR scholarships and information about the EGA National Gold Thread Award
- [Documents and Forms](#) – access CAR documents and forms
- [Education](#) – access general information about education opportunities from EGA and the Carolinas Region
- [Membership](#) – access basic information about membership in EGA and the Carolinas Region
- [About Us \(Meet the Officers\)](#) – access brief introductions to the officers of the Carolinas Region
- [EGA National](#) – access contact information for EGA National
- [Outreach](#) – access information about the Region's outreach efforts
- [Videos](#) – access EGA National's virtual Board Meeting reports

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

The deadline for submissions to the 4thQuarter RegioNews is November 1, 2026. Please send me information on interesting events in your chapters to [newsletter@egacarolinas.org](mailto:newsletter@egacarolinas.org)

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## ***America's Tapestry***

“On July 4<sup>th</sup>, 2026 our nation marked the 250<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the signing of the Declaration of Independence. All over the United States, communities held events to illustrate and celebrate our unique history, and to look forward to the next 250 years.

One such event was organized by costume designer and fiber artist Stefan Romero. In collaboration with William and Mary (VA), Seton Hill University (PA), and a number of historical and craft organizations, Stefan created a once-in-a-generation fiber arts project.

America's Tapestry features 13 embroidered panels, one for each of the original colonies. The embroidery was carried out by volunteers from ages 5 to 96 from New Hampshire to Georgia. The panels illustrate stories of individual contributions that reveal each colony's struggle for independence. Nearly 2,000 volunteers joined America's Tapestry to embroider the panels, with local directors guiding the effort in each of the participating states.

Karen Wallach was the South Carolina panel director and Gail Smith was the North Carolina panel director.

America's Tapestry is now touring historic venues throughout the East Coast on a two-year traveling exhibition, running through 2028. From June 19 – September 6, 2026 it will be on display at William & Mary's Muscarelle Museum of Art, Williamsburg VA.”

More information on America's Tapestry can be found at [americastapestry.com](http://americastapestry.com)

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## ***America's Tapestry – North Carolina Panel***

*Submitted by Gail Smith, Carolinas Region Director*

The first I heard about the America's Tapestry project was when I received a few emails from you in the region, asking about it & who Stefan Romero was. A couple of months went by & more information came out telling about the project, the dreamer who came up with it, and who/what was still needed to make it happen.

I volunteered after talking with some chapter stitchers. They were interested but no one wanted to head it up. I talked it over with my husband; Heather Rushforth had an old needlepoint frame – it just seemed like it was coming together, so I said yes.

The main stitchers were Mary Jo Stewart, Judy Blout, Graciela White, Corinne Burr, Linda Hebert, Susan Newberry, & Eileen Andrews. Mary Grosser, Loran Thie, Mary Cohen, Carolyn

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Doerr, Annetjie de Waal, Debbie Slupianek, & Stuart Williams came as they could to stitch. La Rae Umfleet, America 250 NC project, found locations to show the panel & do public stitching. Susan Brubaker Knapp painted the courthouse, sky, plants, & such.

From the beginning, there were questions, ideas, suggestions, tries, and the removal of those tries when the color or stitch just didn't work. Each stitcher took on a part of the panel & worked it until it was completed. Graciela stitched the buttonhole stitch to make the 'straw' hat in the lower left corner. Corinne stitched the Elizabeth's yellow dress, Susannah's quilted blue apron, and Lydia's dress (standing next to the table). Corinne was our color guru, which was smart as she is a Graphic Designer & just loves color, hues, & values.

For the most part, the panel was worked on at my house. There was room for the frame, the big box of floss and several chairs, and the cartoon of the design could be laid out on the dining room table for reference. The size of the panel & the frame it was on allowed for 3 people to work at a time, as long as they were not working in the same area. Even so, many times the needle had to go through to the back of the panel, which meant that the stitcher would have to go under the frame to push the needle back through to the top.

La Rae, from the state's America 250 NC program, was instrumental in having the panel travel around the state. The thought was that the public could stitch on the panel & learn about the story it told. However, before anything, the NC panel went to the Spring Retreat to be introduced to the stitchers of the region. The Archive building in Raleigh, NC, was the first public interaction event. Many state employees came to stitch on the panel. That was a very busy day & we learned a lot about having an event like that. Not a lot of stitching was done when the public was involved. The panel also went to Tryon Palace, New Bern, for the 4<sup>th</sup> of July; the region's Fall Retreat at the end of September; the NC State fair; and the Edenton courthouse on the 25 of October, the day the letter depicted in the panel was said to have been dated. In December, the NC & SC panels were part of the Charlotte Museum of History event, "Holiday on the Homefront".

In late December, Nancy Cook, from the Charlotte chapter, connected me with Susan Brubaker Knapp, to see if Susan would consider painting on the panel. Yes, she would! So early in January, the courthouse, sky, foliage, & message board were painted! That helped take a worry off all our shoulders about getting it completed on time.

At the end of February, Karen Wallach, SC panel director, said that she would take the panel while I went on a 10-day cruise. So, while it was with Karen, she helped to finish the panel by having her SC panel stitchers & the Charlotte chapter work on the panel.

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Charlotte stitchers added tatted flowers to the fabric border they attached, helping to blend the stitched areas with the fabric. It was a marvelous choice. Seed stitches were attached to the fabric & broke up the design to fool the eye, making the colors look similar when they were just a tad off. They stitched the felt teapots in the corner and enhanced the leaves of the trees & bushes, as well as the courthouse steeple.

From what I understand, the SC stitchers wove the floss to make the other 2 straw hats & slipped them onto the panel. They appliqued dresses in areas that were not stitched and added the mob caps to the ladies. Karen gave color to the flesh that was showing, which brought the ladies more to life than the original plan of outlining them with light gray floss.

From mid-March to the end of April, it was a stitching storm to complete & triple check everything. Susan Newberry & Eileen Andrews came almost every day to work on this or that. They are very skilled in applique techniques, so skilled you can't see their stitches on the dresses or the aprons that they attached. With a little tweak here or there, they made something just right.

Because a group of stitchers and smockers gave their time for a year, a little bit of history was stitched, a panel that tells of the involvement of women at the beginning of this nation. I am very glad that I said yes to this project as it was like nothing I had ever done in my life! Without the commitment of all who worked on the NC panel, it would not be as lovely as it is. Would I do it again? No. Would I encourage everyone to get involved if the opportunity presents itself? Absolutely! It will fill you like nothing else has. It will stretch your skills & expand your world.

### Panel Descriptions

“The North Carolina panel features the 1774 ‘Edenton Tea Party,’ one of the earliest recorded instances of organized political action by women in the American colonies. This group of 51 women authored and signed a resolution to boycott British goods, including tea and textiles, leveraging their economic agency to make a political statement.”

“The South Carolina panel highlights the many young people who served in the American Revolution. John McCord, aged 13, worked as a camp follower – shelling corn, caring for the ill and carrying messages. The upper vignette features the Cherokee War of 1776. The Cherokee tribe in coordination with the British army launched a series of attacks against colonial frontier settlements throughout western South Carolina”.

(americastapestry.com)



Karen Wallach, the South Carolina panel director and Gail Smith, the North Carolina panel director with the completed tapestries.



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## ***Interview with Carol Currier***

*Submitted by Barbara Dexter-Smith, Editor RegioNews*

The interview features excerpts from the EGA blog “Interview with Carol Currier: Texture and Color in Crewel Embroidery” (July 21, 2025).

Carol Currier has a long history with the Embroiderers’ Guild of America. Carol served on the national board of EGA for eight years, including as national President from 2007 - 2009. She recently retired as EGA Chair of the [Master Craftsman program in crewel embroidery](#) and has four classes available through EGA’s many educational programs: [Trio](#), [Exploring Jacobean Crewel Embroidery](#), [Avondale](#), and [Boca Blossoms](#). Her love for embroidery is expansive. She is not only certified by the National Academy of Needlearts (NAN) as a surface embroidery teacher; she has also studied counted cross-stitch, Japanese embroidery, stumpwork, whitework, blackwork, and more.

*Where did your love for embroidery start?*

I was 8 or 9, when my best friend’s grandmother came to visit her for the summer. That lovely lady sat with us very patiently for many afternoons, teaching us the basics of embroidery. My allowance was quickly spent every week at Woolworths buying floss and preprinted patterns. In my teen years, I was drawn to counted cross-stitch and knitting. My parents bought me a sewing machine when I was 12 and I made most of my clothes, adding smocking when I had three daughters in my twenties. In my mid-twenties, Erica Wilson came to PBS, and I began to realize how many more techniques were out there in the world.

In my early thirties, my local needlepoint teacher encouraged me to attend Elsa Williams School, where another world opened to me. My father said he had never heard me so excited about anything! I was able to attend for two weeks a year and learn many different techniques from amazing teachers, including Elsa, Muriel Baker, Judy Way, Peg Lunt, Jody Adams, and many others. An amazing experience (my mother took the girls for those weeks and eventually went with me for a week with Elsa).

I went to an exhibit presented by the [Connecticut River Chapter of EGA](#), and I found my home! That was about 50 years ago, and as we moved a lot, EGA became my home base. The first thing I did, every time I knew we were moving, was to find my next chapter. I was never without an EGA Chapter (or multiple chapters). I began teaching locally at the Ridgewood, NJ, Community School. I was certified in surface embroidery by the National Academy of NeedleArts in the late 90’s.

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*What drew you to the Crewel embroidery technique?*

I love the softness of crewel wool and the ease of the color flow in shading. I started with Elsa Williams wool in my first class and went on to other types, such as Appleton and Fine D'Aubusson. I find Appleton the easiest for beginners in shading, especially with the large color range. Short answer: texture and color.

I have also studied Japanese Embroidery, Counted Cross Stitch, Stumpwork, White Work, Black Work, and Needlepoint. I do a lot of needlepoint—I love the variety of threads. At the end of the day, I always return to crewel.

*Describe your role as past Chairman of the Master Craftsman in crewel embroidery.*

Candidates should already possess expertise in Crewel. It is not a teaching course. Stitchers should take as many courses as possible with evaluations from their teachers to make sure they have the necessary skills to be a Master Craftsman. It is always sad to see a candidate fail to pass. Some steps require designing skills and perfection in stitching your own design. We try our best not to discourage anyone. Our job is to acknowledge excellence in stitching.

*Do you have a daily/weekly/monthly practice that you'd recommend to other embroiderers interested in honing their craft?*

**Daily:** Prioritize my work. I take a day to play sometimes, but I try to do serious stitching or designing every day. Straightening up my worktable, I am messy. Reviewing the schedule for the day, I am taking an online teaching course and need to remember to sign in at the right time. In the evening, I browse one of my embroidery books (I have many and I love the inspirational, calming effect) and stitch on whatever I wish.

**Weekly:** At the end of the week, I evaluate what was accomplished for the week and list priorities for the following week. I plan, which does not always fall into place.

**Monthly:** Reevaluate the projects on which I spend the most time. Are the projects I spend time on the ones that advance my skills as an artist and a teacher? Evaluate my goals.

*Do you have a favorite piece of embroidery advice?*

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Time is a gift. If a project is not making you happy, move on to something else. It may seem wasteful to leave a project incomplete but enjoy what you learned from it and move on.

*What are you working on currently?*

I am continuing to teach locally and on zoom and I will continue with my GCC'S, 'Avondale', 'Boca Blossoms' and 'Trio' (currently a Lightning round) and ICC, 'Exploring Jacobean Crewel Embroidery'.



Eve by Carol Currier



Fox by Carol Currier



Boca Blossoms by Carol Currier

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## ***A Thought on Monogamous vs Multi-Project Stitching***

*Submitted by Krista Shook, Dayton Chapter*

Foreword: At one point in our stitching life, there was only one project that was actively being worked on. Most likely we were just learning, and an adult was teaching us. The following article is just the thoughts of one stitcher. I found them interesting & hope you do too.

Gail Smith, CAR RD

I want to add that being a monogamous stitcher is far less stress for the most part, for my personality; but once you jump off that train whether it be for classes, commissions, stitch a longs, miss judging how long a project will take, eyes being bigger than your wallet... it is

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hard to go back (except in deadline situations) because you already have so many on the go.

My ideal would be to settle in between: one class/complicated/learning piece/art piece, one stitch travel piece (i.e. can stitch without having to worry about messing up and minimal setup), and an easy small that is between the two for when health wise I can't work on the big pieces without fear of messing up but want to be doing something. As I mentioned before with my health issues, too many switches, a lot of stitching time is lost trying to figure out what I was doing or what the teacher had said...

Another thing (at least in my case) monogamous stitchers don't really have stash as we buy for the project. This does mean fewer storing issues as we only store leftovers if there are any or not donatable...

I am starting to develop a stash due to various reasons of which some are: need something for art or commission but then changed my mind, collected everything for Dayton EGA's band sampler fundraiser but only did about 3 bands before switching to the name tags and band 12 on jeans (that's like 30+ colors of DMC and now I have congress cloth - once I unpick the bands); however the biggest reason is that JoAnn's closed and there are no stitching stores in our area... internet is great if you are given a list but if you are developing on your own not so much -- plus shipping if you have to get one item from 5 different online sources -- you buy random things to justify the shipping 😊 ...

However, project kitting/classes are expensive in and of themselves and buying for stash is extra so it is slow going. I have started buying more thread cards and neutral linen but still I mostly tend to only buy per project with maybe an extra of something that was difficult to acquire. This means a guild project that is from stash usually means I am buying something unless I have leftovers that work. Also, when I travel, I try to stop at stores and although I have an Excel sheet for purchasing to kit, I do tend to buy random stuff from their clearance or that catches my eye just in case 😊

I have a *huge* stash of "kits" purchased/given/made-up throughout the eons that I've been stitching 😊 but you can't take from them until they are completed so... they no longer fit in their tote! (Don't tell Chuck but it is more than one tote now that they don't fit in 🤪)

#### WinterStitch 2027

Have you heard about EGA's new event called WinterStitch 2027? They are offering 5 virtual classes that will be held via ZOOM between February and April 2027. Registration will be open from 9/22 to 10/14/2026. For more information, click on this link to the EGA website: <https://egausa.org/winterstitch/>

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## Chapter News

This quarter the chapter newsletters feature patriotic show and tell work.

From Magnolia leaves (Magnolia Chapter) Mildred Lehmann-Stobel, Editor

### Lynn's Tiny town Liberty piece



Betsy's Patriotic Ornament

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From the Tryon Chapter, Carolyn Braly Newsletter Editor

Stitched by Marianne Indoe

“A Time to Work” designed by Teresa Kogut is part of a four-season series worked in DMC and Weeks Dye Works on 28 count linen.



“America”, designed by Primrose Cottage as part of a tribute to our 250th birthday. Worked on 25 count Lugana with DMC.



## 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<br>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                                                    |

### Carolinas Region Executive Committee

|                           |                   |                                     |
|---------------------------|-------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Region Director           | Gail Smith        | regiondirector@egacarolinas.org     |
| Assistant Region Director | Heather Rushforth | asstregiondirector@egacarolinas.org |
| Director of Education     | Janet Noble       | education@egacarolinas.org          |
| Secretary                 | Dee Pierce        | secretary@egacarolinas.org          |
| Treasurer                 | Nova Shulz        | treasurer@egacarolinas.org          |

### Committee Chairs

|                     |                      |                                  |
|---------------------|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Bylaws              | Jeni Huebner         | bylaws@egacarolinas.org          |
| Community Outreach  | Millie Strobel       | outreach@egacarolinas.org        |
| RegioNews           | Barbara Dexter-Smith | newsletter@egacarolinas.org      |
| Seminar Director    |                      | seminardirector@egacarolinas.org |
| Website Coordinator | Cathy Wilson         | website@egacarolinas.org         |

### Nominating Committee

|              |                           |                                  |
|--------------|---------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Nominating   | Katrina Lawrimore (-2029) | nominatingchair@egacarolinas.org |
| Nominating 2 | Nancy Gannon (-2028)      |                                  |
| Nominating 3 | Vacant ( -2029)           |                                  |