MAC - Special Interest Groups

The Madison Area chapter currently has eight active special interest groups: Beading, Canvas, Etc., Freestyle Embroidery and Design, Get the Darn Thing Done, Hardanger, Painted Canvas, Temari, and Road Trip. Special interest groups are small subsets of the general membership that get together on a regular basis to pursue a special area of stitching. Information about the time and place of the meetings are listed in the newsletter and the website calendar. All of these groups provide both social and stitching time. They are a place for helpful discussions to get over stumbling blocks that may come up as you are working on a piece of embroidery.

The **Beading Interest Group** is for anyone who wants to learn about, improve, and share their skills in bead embroidery, weaving, and design. You can also just join the zoom meetings without doing beadwork. You simply have to enjoy talking (or hearing about) beads! This group will meet twice per month via ZOOM—once on the second Thursday from 6-9 and fourth Saturday from 2-5. Contact Tina Marie Maes (pegasus.rose.99@gmail.com) or Laura Bak-Mahlkuch (laura_lab@sbcglobal.net) to be added to this group.

The ***Canvas, Etc. Group*** was initially set up for anyone interested in working on canvas but has expanded into any kind of embroidery. This group meets on the second Tuesday evening of the month via ZOOM. Contact Debra Steaffens (dasteaffens@tds.net) to be added to the notification list.

Freestyle Embroidery and Design was started in 2023 and is open to anyone who wants to expand their skill sets, do their own stitching without a chart or pattern, and design their own original pieces. Meetings are held in person on the first Wednesday of alternating months starting in January. The location shifts across the Madison Area (usually in a local library). Contact Claire DeChristina (bomportocd@gmail.com) to be added to this group.

The ***Hardanger Interest Group*** is for anyone who wants to share the love of this ethnic embroidery. Meetings are the second Monday of odd-numbered months at 1:00 p.m. Contact Linda Harvey (gmaharvey@charter.net) or Judy Caruso (jbcaruso5@gmail.com) to get the location for the meeting.

Painted Canvas Interest Group helps give members the courage and encouragement to ACTUALLY put stitches on the beautiful painted canvases that we've bought! Debra Steaffens leads this group because of her knowledge and experience in canvas embroidery. This group meets on the first Saturday morning of the even-numbered months (February, April, June, August, October, December) usually at Bethany United Methodist Church. Contact Debra Steaffens (dasteaffens@tds.net) to be included in this group.

The ***Get the Darn Thing Done Group*** provides incentive for our members to complete projects that have been started but for some reason still need some work. The only "rule" for this group is that you must continue to bring the same piece of embroidery to this meeting until it is finished (although we've been known to relax this rule a time or two). They meet on the second Saturday morning of the odd-numbered months (January, March, May, July, September, November) at Bethany United Methodist church. Contact Debra Steaffens (dasteaffens@tds.net) to be included in this group.

The **Temari Group** encourages people to learn and pursue techniques in the Japanese art of Temari. This group meets on the first Saturday of the odd-numbered months from 9:30 am to Noon, usually at Sequoya Library. Contact Sue Bangert (SueBMikeH86@gmail.com) to get on this list.

The ***Road Trip Interest Group*** encourages groups of people to get together to travel to an exhibit or a show or anything else that may be of interest to them. If you hear of something of interest, notify the rest of the MAC EGA members and organize a carpool to make the trip!