

Chapter News

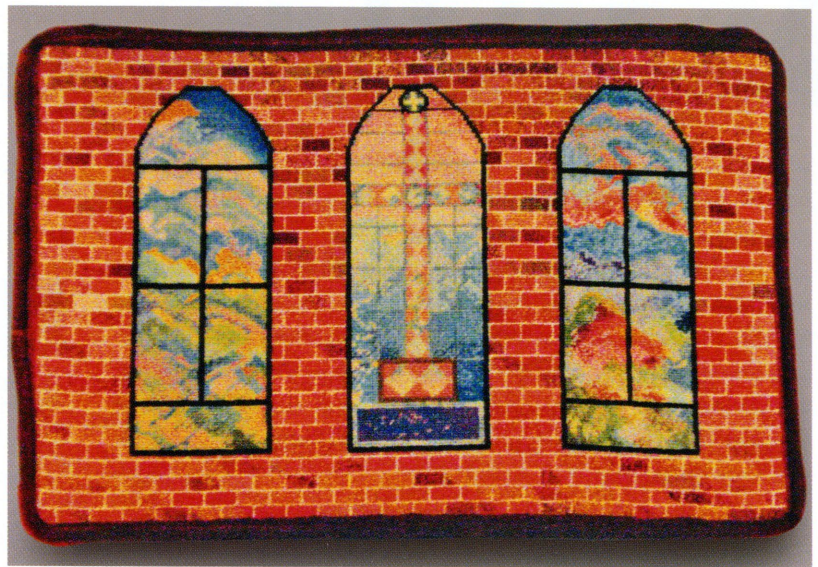
Sue Haines, VP for Chapters/Areas

EASTERN AREA NEWS

Judy Badger, Area Representative

ANG underwrote two Partial Funding Projects recently, both in the Eastern area. The **New Jersey Needle Artists Chapter** (NJ) undertook a project they entitled *A Bouquet for Helena* to honor the memory of a chapter member who lost her battle with cancer. The chapter chose 19 botanical-themed canvases that ranged in size from five inches square to 18 inches by 24 inches. These canvases were stitched in a wide variety of threads and stitches, framed, and donated to the Steeplechase Cancer Center, Somerset Medical Center, Somerville, New Jersey. Stitchers donated stitching materials from their stashes, the chapter raffled donated items, and they found a local framer who was willing to give them a discount on the framing. The chapter selected a single style of frame to unify the project. Prior to their permanent placement in the hospice, these pieces were displayed at the Freylinghuysen Arboretum. Participants included Heidi Kelleher, Robin Marion, Pam Granick, Rosie Lunde, Hilda Lauber, Kathy Marinovich, Kerry Gilmartin, Diane Burgess, Moira Crabtree, Joan Spicer, Sue Chadwick, and Ann Marek.

The second project was done by the **Southside Virginia Chapter** (VA). The original plan to stitch one kneeler quickly morphed into an ambitious project of creating three kneelers for the Old Blandford Church in Petersburg, Virginia. The church has an extraordinary history. It dates back to 1735. In 1901, the Ladies Memorial Association, formed in 1866, began converting the old church into a Chapel and a Confederate memorial. Each



Southside Virginia Chapter Kneelers Project

Confederate state was given the opportunity to be represented by a window. All accepted except Kentucky, which was already committed to local memorials. The ladies secured Louis Tiffany to carry out their memorial. The 13 windows were completed in 1912. We congratulate the Southside Virginia Chapter for contributing to the beauty of this historic jewel. Stitchers included Thelma Brittain (also the designer of the kneelers), Cheryl Dale-Hodges, Olga Eckman, Barbara Edmonds, Wendy Hartsel, Janet Hill, and Judy Recher. Chapter members who were not involved in the stitching provided support for the project with their personal contributions to pay for the Medici wool. The finishing was done by Petersburg Mattress & Upholstery Company, and the owners of the company donated their labor fee toward the finishing of the lovely project.

Even though the **Executive Branch Maryland Chapter** (MD) has been very busy getting ready for Seminar in Baltimore this August, they have also found time to demonstrate at area libraries and to docent at Woodlawn Plantation. In an effort to increase membership, and as a community outreach, they have placed month-long displays in glass cases at two area libraries. The displays included miniatures, pillows, framed works, and hangings with very simple stitching to very complicated pieces. They taught basic stitches to both adults and children at Saturday demonstrations. Small kits were given to those interested in practicing more. The project was very well received and generated lots of positive feedback for their chapter.

Every year the chapter volunteers at Woodlawn Plantation for the annual needlework show in March. Working as docents in the various rooms gives the members a chance to really see and compare the 750 pieces.



Kerry Gilmartin and Robin Marion, president of our chapter, with staff from the Steeplechase Cancer Center of Somerset Medical Center.