

## **Blog #73 - Nashville Needlework Market**

Wednesday, 27 March 2018

*Almost the end of another financial year and time to do the dreaded stocktaking - counting and recording all the items of stock in the Needlework Gallery, storage room, cupboards and drawers. Once again - as per previous years - have to confess to not supplying the accountant with my books for the previous income year and subsequently have spent days and days gathering up all the relevant information for them, writing up the books & creating the financial statements (and as told you before - all by hand as have done since leaving high school and working in an accountants office) for our accountant to double-check and lodge with the IRD. Some pics of the Needlework Gallery for those of you who have not been able to visit. Where does one start?*

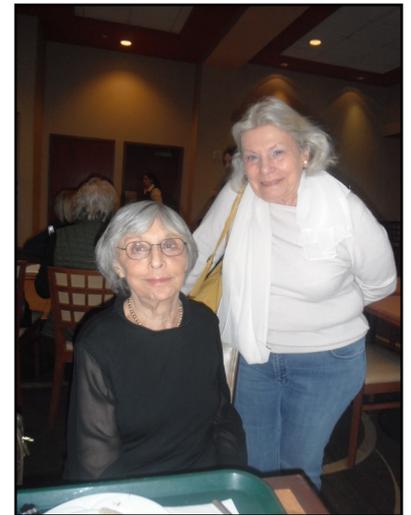


*As for the Needlework Market in the States, returned home from it Thursday, 8th of March.*

*Had a wonderful time. So many precious friends to meet up with - Gigi, Monique, Giulia, Romina, Simona, Maria Teresa, Niky, Karen, Janis, Bonny, Maureen, Beth - to name a few. A disappointment was that some special friends were not able to be there - Judy, Sandie & Cece. Really missed not seeing them.*

*Pictured to the right are two special Belgium ladies - Gigi & Monique.*

*Also met up with Pat Carson of 'Gloria & Pat'. Hadn't seen Pat for years and so it was wonderful to see her again. Some of you may recall her coming to stay with us for a couple of days when we lived in Taupo back in December 1994. At that time I organised an evening at Manuels, for folk to meet her after she had shared and told us of her love of needlework and how she began designing. I've also stayed with Pat in the States.*



*After Ginnie & Ken Thompson retired, Pat took over hosting the 'Danish American Days' needlework classes (at a Golf Resort at Pawley's Island, SC) taught by Jytte Harboesgaard, a distinguished tutor from the Danish Handcraft Guild in Copenhagen, Denmark. Jytte taught at the Danish school for over 30 years.*

*I have some lovely photos of when Pat was here in NZ and too, some lovely ones of her, myself and Jytte at Pawley's Island - but I cannot find the 1994—1995 photo album! Found all other years (1966 - 2005), but not the one I need! Bit of a concern. Hopefully it is in my 'Safe Place' - wherever that may currently be!*

*Sadly, Pat informed me that just a couple of weeks prior to the show Jytte had passed away. A real shock as I had only been in touch with her a few weeks prior to Christmas at which time she told me that her lovely husband, Neils had passed away in the October. The last time Keith and I saw her and Neils was when we spent time with them here in the Hawkes Bay some years ago when she was touring throughout New Zealand teaching the Hedebo embroidery technique at classes for the embroidery guilds. Some of you may recall going to Jytte's class.*



Pat and I at the Nashville Needlework Market

*And some of you may have purchased one or two of the books she published. I used to sell them for her.*

*Jytte and Neils always wanted Keith and I to go and stay with them at their summer house and used to regularly send photos of it to entice us, but we never did get there. And now not possible.*

*As for the show itself, always a wonderful experience!*

**So many designs. So many threads. So many fabrics. So many accessories. So many choices.**

*Pictured to the right is the welcome sign that greeted everyone as they entered the lobby of the hotel and after a few days, once everyone had begun setting up their exhibits in their rooms, pictured below is what the hotel looked like when standing on the first floor and looking towards*



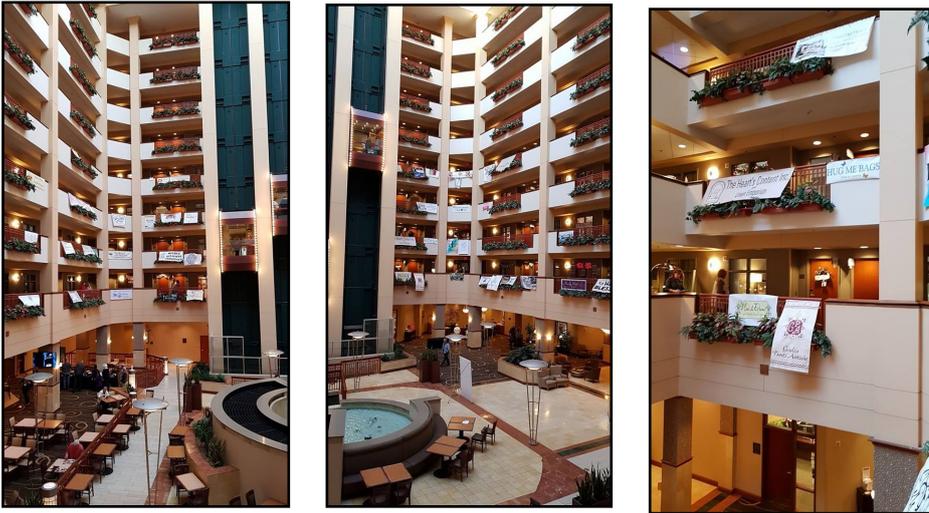
*the elevators.*

*And this is only looking in one direction!*

*If one was standing in the elevator, and looking the other way, the scene was the same!*

*Four floors, each room on each floor of the hotel, occupied by a vendor with so many tempting items.*

*My room was on the 9th floor.*



*Before I left New Zealand I was determined I wasn't going to purchase a lot - but I weakened! The "in" thing at the moment is reproduction samplers.*

*Before leaving New Zealand and therefore before attending the show, English designer, Nicola Parkman of 'Hands Across The Sea Samplers' contacted me and asked if I would represent her here in New Zealand. I subsequently met up with her - and what a wonderful lady. Classy, elegant, intelligent, a perfectionist, sweet natured, and gracious but humble. A beautiful person inside and out and so gifted with her needle. Her love for reproduction samplers is infectious.*

*I now have available every sampler design that Nicola has reproduced.*

*Each pattern is*

- \* *beautifully presented*
- \* *printed on the highest quality paper in a booklet format*
- \* *colourful with easy to read charts and instructions*
- \* *filled with historical content and/or provenance of the needleworker*

*Pictured to the right is Nicola and her husband, Ray.*



*Here are a few pics of some exhibitors displays -*



And pictured here are Jim and his daughter from 'The Gentle Art' (Sampler Threads & Simply Shaker Sampler Threads) and on the right is Megan - editor of the Needlework retailer magazine and one of the show organisers.



Jim's mother, Nancy, began dyeing these lovely cotton threads back in the early 1990's. When I began purchasing them, the complete range was a choice of less than 30 colours in the Sampler Threads range.

Simply Shaker Sampler Threads were not introduced until several years later. Now - altogether - almost 200 colours.

Another special friend exhibiting at the show was Janis of Noteworthy Needle.

(Janis usually exhibits at Celebration of Needlework. You may recall me mentioning her before).

In addition to designs, Janis creates wonderful beeswax shapes - bees, beehives, hearts, animals, pet paws, flowers, etc. etc. Janis was holding a competition over the weekend - and I was the winner!

Prize was a wonderful bag of goodies!!

Beeswax items, bee related ornaments, a jar of honey and a huge mug with a Queen Bee and a crown stamped on it.

A wonderful feeling to have won.

I felt like a Queen Bee.

Here I am pictured with Janis.



One of the highlights of market is the getting together of all the exhibitors at the hotel's 'Happy Hour' - free drinks & nibbles - at the end of the day to socialise and discuss the days happenings.

Pictured are "The Italians" - Giulia, Simona, Romina & Maria Teresa and husbands.

Giulia's husband, Mario, is not pictured. He must have been away getting another drink.



And here are another couple of pics of some lovely friends getting together. Below - Jean (owner of the fabulous shop, Attic Needlework, Phoenix, Arizona), Gigi (designer - GigiR) Nicola (designer - Hands Across The Sea Samplers)



And to the right - Giulia's husband, Mario & our mutual friend, Gigi



And finally - all things must come to an end and so here I am about to leave the hotel for the airport with my trusty limo drive, Azaz.

He has been transporting me to and from the airport (about an hours drive away) every time I have attended a Nashville market/show.

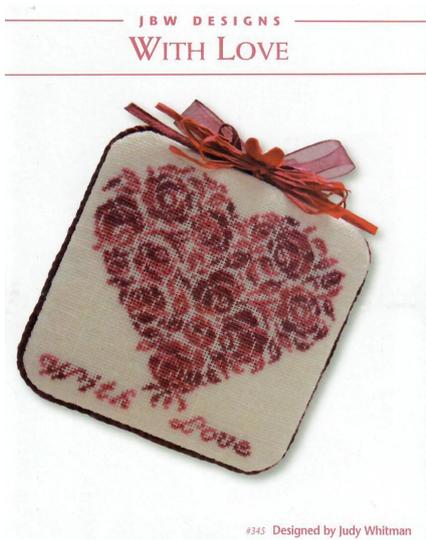


In the plane on my way home I began stitching one of Judy's (JBW Designs) latest designs with one of Romina's (Romy's Creations) threads - Fuchsia.

A really pretty coloured overdyed cotton thread.



And here it is a few days after my arrival home -



Design Title:

With Love

Design Code:

JBW 345

Price:

\$17.50



And here are all my purchases.

There doesn't look to be too much, but I assure you there were heaps of things to price!

I have to confess that I called this trip to Nashville my "Nostalgic Trip" as I cannot be sure that I will attend again.

Life and circumstances have changed.

But - one never knows!

That's all for this time.  
Bye for now.

