

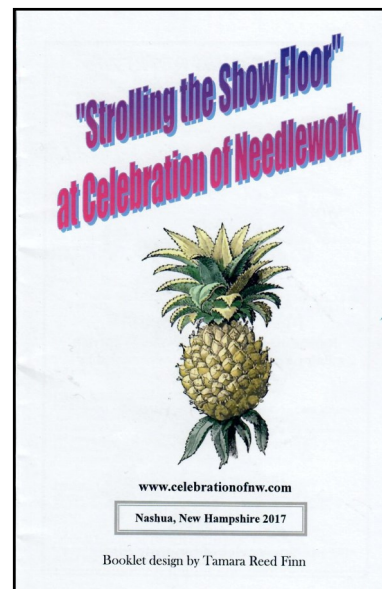
## Blog #57 - The Merchants Mall

Saturday, 20 May 2017

To continue on with events from 'Celebration of Needlework' retreat at Nashua -

Thursday evening was the "Preview and Power Shopping" event.

Prior to the event, the weekend retreat emcee - Susan Greening Davis - visits every exhibitors booth in the Merchants Mall and notes down any special items that she deems exceptional or exclusive or unique to that vendor. The ladies enrolled for this event are given a Show Booklet, each page containing an exhibitor's name, their business name and their booth number and a place for the holder of a booklet to write notes for themselves (e.g. the exceptional item/items described by Susan). Then at 7pm the doors of the Merchants Mall are flung open and the ladies "pour" into the ballroom to purchase their preferred items.



It was quite a frenzied time.

For the first time ever, prior to leaving home, I had made up kits of linen fabric, threads and pretty printed cotton fabrics for the inside finishing of my design, "Hem Your Blessings Poche" - and ALL packs that I had made up sold out that evening!

I should have made up a lot more as Merchant Mall days were Friday, Saturday and Sunday as well as the Thursday evening!

I didn't get around to taking pics of all the vendors, but below are a few pics of booths set up by good friends -



Niky's creations (Italy)



The Workbasket (USA)

As per last year  
Niky  
and  
Candy  
shared an exhibition booth



Romy's Creations (Italy)  
Romina

Romina & Simona's  
first time exhibiting at this retreat



They too shared an exhibition booth

Simona on the left  
Romina on the right

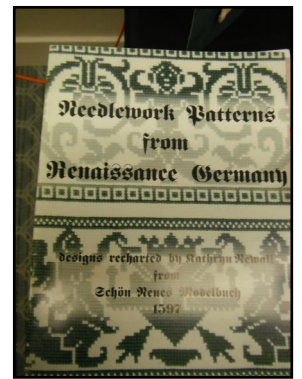


Mani di Donna (Italy)  
Simona

To see all booths in the Merchants Mall, go to Bonny's blog - [www.thenebbyneedle.blogspot.com](http://www.thenebbyneedle.blogspot.com)  
Bonny managed to photograph every vendor!  
You will enjoy reading her blog.

Friday evening I attended one of the many lectures - this one by Susan Greening Davis on "Darning Samplers". Wonderful. So informative. I now have a greater appreciation for these pieces of needlework. She also had a few pieces from her antique sampler collection and everyone was envious of her edition of a reproduced German sampler pattern book that was originally published in 1597 and which is again now out-of-print.

Here are a few pics of the samplers  
Susan had on display -



Saturday is always the 'Breast Cancer Dinner' - an evening full of fun, food, and frolicking, and the silent auction for the purchase of baskets overflowing with fabulous needlework goodies - all funds being donated to breast cancer research.

I usually attend this function, but this year opted to go out for dinner with my designing friends.  
Went to Martha's Exchange restaurant in Nashua.

Here is a pic of us all.

Pictured from left to right are -  
Karen & Dennis (Rosewood Manor - USA)  
Candy (The Workbasket - USA)  
Bonny (The Nebby Needle - USA)  
Niky (Nikyscreations - Italy)  
Janis (Noteworthy Needle - USA)  
Me (Shereelyn, Barberry Row - NZ)



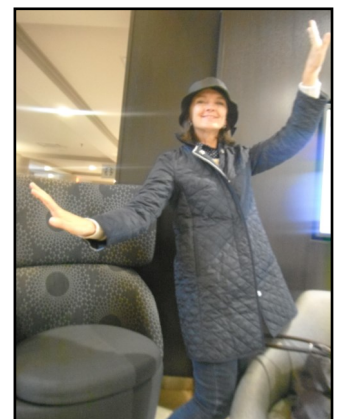
Sunday was the last day of the retreat.

The Merchants Mall closed at noon and then everyone had to dismantle their booth and once done most headed away home or elsewhere to stay with friends. Niky had popped off to say goodbye to a friend, and so she is not in the photo below - just Candy, Bonny & Janis. The photo of Niky (sorry, it's a bit out-of-focus) I took at another time when she was going out to the shops. Can't you tell she was a professional ballerina in her younger days!

The five of us had been together  
having a farewell natter and drink  
before these four girls left me at the hotel.

Bye, lovely friends.

I probably won't see them in 2018  
but planning to in 2019.





*Like myself, Karen & Dennis stayed another night at the hotel and so they invited me to join them for dinner that evening. It was hilarious though, because they had forgotten that their vehicle was all loaded up with stock and really no spare seat for me. However, Dennis pushed a few things around and managed to squeeze into a small gap amongst the boxes!*

*Here is a pic of him.  
Just as well Mr. Traffic Cop wasn't around!!*

*They took me to a restaurant that specialises in serving lobster. Don't you just love their "designer" plastic bibs!*



*The next morning (Monday), Romina, her daughter, and Simona were leaving to return to Italy and so we got together for breakfast.  
Good company. Good friends.*

*I don't know if you can see it or not, but in addition to her passion for dyeing threads, Romina loves to dye her hair. It is streaked - red, lime green, mustard yellow, purple and other colours. One never knows from one day to the next what colours she will choose. Her personality is as colourful as her hair. Love her.*



*After they left, I was definitely the only needleworker remaining at the hotel.*

*I spent the morning repacking my bags and in the afternoon walked to the local shops and enjoyed looking at all the beautiful items that Americans can purchase and do some shopping - a pair of shoes and a few new display easels.*

*I think that is enough for this blog and so will bring this to a close and continue another day.*

*Hopefully I have encouraged you to think about attending a 'Celebration of Needlework' retreat.  
I assure you that you would have a most enjoyable experience.*

