

May 11, 2016

The Turquoise Trail Chapter of The Embroiderers' Guild of America

The Turquoise Trail is a chapter of The Embroiderers' Guild of America, Inc. ("EGA"). EGA is a national non-profit educational organization whose mission is to inspire passion for the needle arts through education and the celebration of its heritage. Generally, embroidery is a broad category of fiber arts. EGA defines it as needlework done with a needle and thread. The Guild's purpose is to conduct education, instruction and research in the art of needlework. It focuses in on both historical and contemporary styles, traditional ethnic embroidery and creative modern embroidery art. Both the craft of replicating designs and the original art are encouraged.

EGA was established in New York in 1958 as a branch of The Embroiderers' Guild of London (established 1906). In 1970 it became its own American entity. The Guild is currently made up of 280+ chapters which are divided into 13 regions, including 3 online chapters, and has international representation among the 8,800+ members. Benefits of membership include a subscription to a quarterly magazine, Needle Arts. Membership dues are approximately \$50 annually for a membership-at-large and \$60 for a membership that includes a local chapter.

Membership in EGA is open to anyone interested in embroidery from the beginner to the professional. Members work within local chapters or a member-at-large network to improve their skills and knowledge via an array of projects and lectures. In addition, EGA offers individual and group correspondence courses, teacher and judge certification programs as well as nine separate disciplines in master craftsman programs. To provide a broad scope of the needlework industry, EGA and its chapters regularly invite nationally and internationally recognized teachers artists to hold workshops around the country. Finally, the Guild annually features national and regional needlework seminars around the country featuring a variety of instructional projects and techniques.

EGA is dedicated to an organized outreach program to share with our communities. Significant contributions have been made throughout the country to The American Heart Association, Women's Heart Health Research and Habitat for Humanity.

EGA has four chapters in New Mexico, one in Las Cruces, one in Los Alamos and two in Albuquerque, Sandia Mountain and The Turquoise Trail.

The Turquoise Trail Chapter is composed of primarily of working professionals along with some retired members. We recognize that the modern embroiderer has limited time for avocations and we tailor our programs to their needs. Monthly, it has a program meeting on the 2nd Saturday of the month featuring a needlework project or lecture and a social "sit and stitch" on the 4th Sunday of the month. Once or twice a year, the chapter brings in a nationally known teacher for a special class. Some of these special classes have included historical blackwork, Romanian point lace, Japanese Rosazhi, antique map samplers, ribbon embroidery, needlepoint on canvas, multi-technique designs.

Further information can be obtained by contacting Rebecca Wardlaw at rewardlaw76@gmail.com, a member of Turquoise Trail and its representative to the Education Committee of AFAC, and currently the national Director of Bylaws. Additionally, see the national website, www.egausa.org, the Rocky Mountain Region website, <https://rmrega.org/>.

The Turquoise Trail welcomes visitors to attend up to three regular meetings before joining. Upcoming programs for The Turquoise Trail include:

May 14 = lecture on judging standards for needlework

June 11= lecture on weavings of Perugia, Italy, prominent in Italian Renaissance paints, small related project, a floral band from a Perugian towel border (*bring your own supplies: white or ecru 28 count piece of linen 3-4 inches by 10-12 inches, number 12 perle cotton in any bold color, usual stitching supplies*).

July 9 = hardanger session 3 of three part beginner lesson

August 13 = lecture on mid-century/vintage surface work (e.g. redwork)

September 10 = state fair charity event, demonstration while making Soldiers' Kissing Pillows

October 8 = lecture on canvas embellishment

November 12&13= 2-day sampler class with Catherine Theron, *details and costs to be announced*. For information on Catherine Theron, see her website, <http://therontraditions.com/index.html>

December 10 = holiday party

Questions regarding The Turquoise Trail's programs or seeking other chapter information? contact Sue Thomas, chapter vice-president, [mailto:egasue@hotmail.com> , 505-254-1839.