

Hello everyone! (feel free to forward this to your friends!)

## Happy 4<sup>th</sup> of July!

Summer is in full swing here – the kids are all out of school, and of course, I am not getting nearly as much done as I had hoped! Our Smocking guild just had our Stitching Serenity weekend in Santa Barbara, with Marion Scoular and Wendy Schoen teaching. It was a wonderful weekend! The location is up on the hills of Santa Barbara and it is soo peaceful and serene – a perfect place for stitching! In the evenings, we put our pj's on, stitched, and chatted to our heart's content, a perfect way to spend a weekend! Next year's dates are Friday – Sunday, June 23-25, 2006. If you want more information, send me an email and we will put you on our email list!

Marion has a wonderful book, [Advice is for Listening To, Not Necessarily Taking!!](#) In it, among many wonderful pieces of information, is a recipe for a stain remover that works wonders, and she has graciously allowed me to share it with you! \*\* Keep in mind that this contains bleach, and while it is a wonderful stain remover, conservators would not use this on garments because of the bleach. \*\*

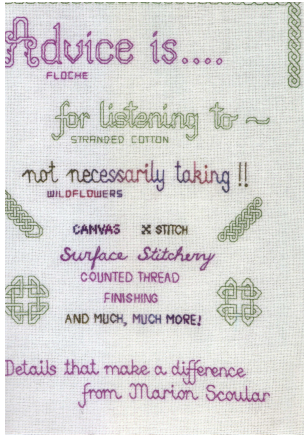
1 Tablespoon Snowy Bleach

2 Tablespoons Ivory Snow flakes (they have discontinued the flakes, so you have to make your own by grating a bar of Ivory Soap

1 Gallon warm water

After these are mixed together, the solution will start to gel, and then put the piece(s) in the solution, covering completely. You can soak as long as 3 weeks, checking every few days to see if the stain has been removed. When you are finished soaking, carefully remove the piece form the solution (the solution will

make it very heavy). Once it is removed, Rinse, rinse, rinse, and then rinse again. It needs to be rinsed until you can drink the rinse water!



This month, as one of my specials, I have Marion's book Advice Is....  
On sale for only

**\$20**

(Regularly \$26)

A wonderful addition to every stitcher's library!

I know many of you travel and are always looking for a wonderful new fabric store! If you are ever in *New York City*, there are many fabric stores and trim shops to explore! One of my favorite fabric stores is

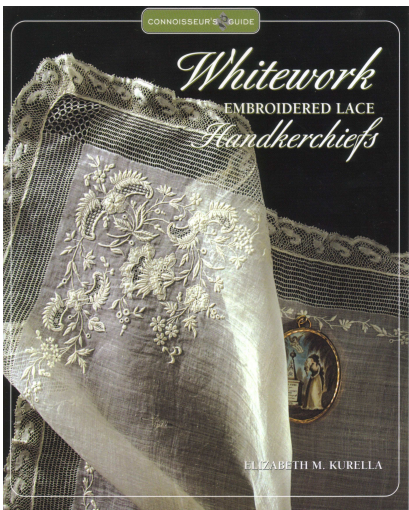
[B & J Fabrics](#)

[525 7<sup>th</sup> Ave.](#)

[NYC, NY 10018](#)

[212-354-8150](#)

They have recently moved locations and have expanded their size. They have all kinds of fabrics from all over, things that you don't see everywhere else. A lot of the designers from the different houses come in to check out the fabrics and trims! They will mail order swatches of something you are looking for – go to their web site and you can link to their email request.



Elizabeth Kurella has a great new 'eye candy' book that is also full of information on antique whitework hankies! Elizabeth will be teaching a preday class in Nashville at the 2005 SAGA Convention. Regularly \$18, we have Whitework Embroidered Lace Handkerchiefs on

special for **\$ 15**

\*\*\*\* Set #2 of new Linen Floss colors from DMC available mid-July! \*\*\*\*



DMC has just announced that an additional 12 colors will be added to their linen floss family! This set has more pinks, blues, and greens! Several customers have used the linen floss to shadow work on linen and have loved it! The second set is available for only

**\$12!**

For anyone who missed out, we will also offer Set #1 for **\$12**

**On to Threads!!!!**

## Threads

There are a myriad of thread choices for all types of projects!! I am going to talk specifically about the types of thread that I use in heirloom sewing! When I first learned to sew, you could buy thread on sale, 20 spools for a dollar! I've learned a great deal about fabrics and threads since then, and once again, you get what you pay for! Just like in fabric, thread is spun from staple fibers. The longer the staple, the fewer nubs in the thread! The threads that are on sale 10 spools for a dollar use shorter staples. These cause more lint and pilling to form.

When I am sewing, I want to match my thread to my fabric. If I am using 100% cotton fabric, than I like to use 100% cotton thread, and I match the weight of the thread to the weight of the fabric. For example, if I am sewing on Swiss voile, I will use a lighter thread than if I am sewing on Swiss pique'.

The 100% cotton threads that I use the most often are:  
[Madeira Cotona 80 wt](#) – available in 12 colors, retail \$3.30 each  
**\*\* Special! Set of all 12 only \$30 (regularly \$39.60) \*\***

[YLI Heirloom Sewing Thread](#) , retail \$2.10 each

70 wt – 7 colors(white, natural, pink, blue, yellow, green, aqua)

80 wt – White and Natural

[Mettler 60 wt Fine Embroidery Thread](#), retail \$2.35 each

This thread is available in 152 colors, and is probably the most readily available. Many quilt shops carry the Mettler 50 wt. and will have the 60 wt. available also, at least in some colors.

I use the [Madeira Cotona](#) on Swiss voile, Swiss Batiste, Swiss Organdy, and Ultra Chiffon

I use the [YLI Heirloom Embroidery Thread](#) on Swiss voile, Swiss Batiste, Ulster Linen, and for all of my pinstitch

I use the [Mettler 60 wt Fine Embroidery thread](#) on Swiss Flannel, Swiss Pique', Swiss Corduroy, English Lawn, Hoffman, Kaufman, and KP Kids type prints.

\*\*\*\*\* I offer a [Monthly Mettler Club](#) – over the course of 1 year (12 months) you will receive all 152 colors of Mettler heirloom Embroidery Thread, plus Machine Needles, Hand Needles, etc. for only \$25 a month! \*\*\*\*\*

One thing to keep in mind – your machine has to like your thread!!! I have several spools of tanne thread, which is an 80 wt. cotton thread. I have several friends that swear by it. Unfortunately, neither of my machines 'like' it – I get rats nests and can't stitch more than 2 inches before the thread breaks. I tried everything – rethreading the machine, rethreading the bobbin, changing the needle, adjusting the tension, even cleaning my machine, and nothing helped. It saves me much frustration to leave that particular thread alone and use a brand that my machine likes!

I hope all of you have a wonderful summer, with lots of stitching time! If you want to order anything, or have any questions, please call [\(805\) 529-5005](tel:8055295005) or email me at:

[vaune@vaune.com](mailto:vaune@vaune.com)

and I will get back to you right away! Hope this has been helpful. Next time I will talk about embroidery threads (floss, floche, cotton a broder, etc.), which offer a wonderful variety to your stitching!

Vaune