

Neal's News

February 25, 2021

Goodbye February

Wow February is almost gone!!! That brings us to March and another step closer to SPRING!!! This past week has been a nice preview. As I watch the snow melting outside my window I keep dreaming about green grass. Before you know it we will all be complaining about the heat and humidity. This coming Wednesday is Kimberbell Club. I see the morning session is full, but there is room in the afternoon session, so get signed up before it is also full.

Time to sign up for the Spring Retreat! This year's dates are **April 8 thru 11**. This retreat is currently full, but if you are interested please get your name on a wait list. Once in a while we have cancellations.

Ginger has scheduled a special class for 2021!!!. This is a very special class that has been requested by several people. How to make your own Tuffet. Because of the special needs for this class and the time to get the product in, we will require at least 3 people for the class and we will need to know by February 28. Check it out later in the newsletter. This class is full, but if you are interested please call the store and get on the wait list and Ginger will schedule another time.

Leslie's Sewcial New year, new projects? A great time to come to Leslie's Sewcial for a little help. The next Leslie's Sewcial will be on **Saturday, March 13 or 20**. Get signed up early to reserve your spot. Great time to get that project done you have wanted to do but need a little help.

Kimberbell Club is perfect for all those who have an embroidery machine. Leslie shows a new Kimberbell project each month. Due to Covid restrictions we have to limit attendance, so please call the store to attend this FREE demo. **Next Club date is March 3 at 10am or 2pm.** *Don't forget to bring an embroidery stick to get the free design.*



February Projects

In Stitches With Mary in person again! This club meets on the *2nd Wednesday of each month at 10am or 2pm.* **The next In Stitches Club will be in person on March 10.** We still have to restrict the numbers, so please call and reserve a spot. In case you have not checked it out lately, We have a new tab on our website called videos. There are several past In Stitches With Mary videos to watch. [Click here](#) to check them out.

Neal's Spring Retreat

Love to sew an tired of interruptions? Then you should come to the Neal's Retreat. 3 Full days of time for your favorite hobby without any interruptions. All meals served. Spend the night if you like. Sew all night if you like. The choice is yours. Bring your favorite snacks along with all the supplies you need for whatever projects you would like to work on during those 3 days. This retreat fills very quickly so don't delay signing up.

Class Meets: April 8-11
Class Fee \$225

Although this retreat is full, you can get on a wait list in the event of cancellations

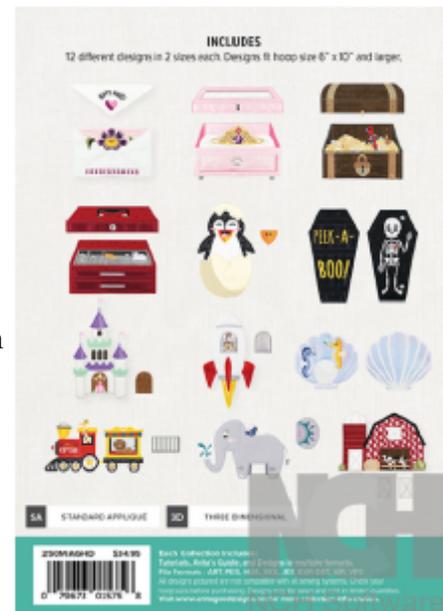


New From Anita Goodesign

Peek-A-Boo Embroidery

At first glance, these designs seem to be standard cute embroidered pieces, but take a peek inside, and you'll be in for a delightful surprise! Each of the 12 complete designs are constructed in two hoopings and feature a standard appliqué embroidery design along with a fun 3D element of surprise. These designs are sized perfectly to create a cute, little interactive toy or to stitch on to a shirt for your little one!

Hoop size: 6" x 10"



Tooth Fairy Pillows

Bye bye baby teeth! Is there a little one in your life beginning to lose their baby teeth? Get them ready for the big moment by starting the conversation with a craft! Let them choose the fabrics and threads that will ultimately create their very own personalized pillow to hold their baby teeth safe and sound until the Tooth Fairy visits. Even better, use the fonts that come with your embroidery machine to personalize the back fabric with initials or dates before starting this project. Maybe...just maybe, the Tooth Fairy will be so impressed with such a lovely tooth pillow that she will stick around to admire it, and of course, leave a surprise in return. This collection includes 10 designs that each fit in a 5" x 7" hoop, or larger.

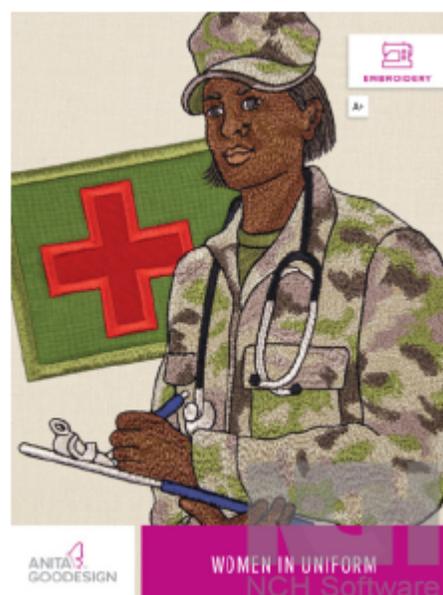


Women in Uniforms

Each design features a picture-perfect professional that has dedicated themselves to a career-in-uniform. Whether she's performing a medical procedure, landing a plane, or serving her country, there is a woman in uniform to use for many careers in this wonderful collection.

Stitch one of these 18 hardworking women onto a garment, or hang it in a picture frame for a perfect gift for a loved one or a friend! They come in 5 different sizes to make it convenient for any project.

Hoop size: 6" x 10"





Leslie's Sewcial

Leslie's Sewcial is the perfect class for you if you are wanting to finish a project, but you need a little assistance. Or maybe you don't know how to get started on a project you have been wanting to make. Spend all day with Leslie and others who love to sew like you.

Classes Meet: **Sat., March 13 or 20**

Class Time: **9am - 3pm**

Class Fee \$35.00

Free Kimberbell Club

Leslie's FREE demo showcases a new Kimberbell machine embroidery project each month. If you have an embroidery machine you will want to attend this club. Due to health restrictions, we have to limit attendance so it is imperative that you call to make a reservation for either session. ***Don't forget your embroidery stick if you want the free design.***

Next meeting, **Wed., March 3**

Classes Meet: **1st Wed of the Month 10am OR 2pm**



Class Fee: FREE



In Stitches With Mary Club

Each month Mary will show a project or two geared toward all sewists. There is no need for a special sewing machine to complete her projects. Her February projects are shown to the left. ***The March Club will continue to be in person so be sure to call and reserve your spot!***

If you would like the written directions Mary will be happy to provide them just send \$5.00 to Mary Maurer at 309 E 2nd St., Muscatine, IA 52761 and specify which project you want directions for. Next meeting: **Wed., March 10 in person! 10am or 2pm**

Beginner's Circle

Are you new to sewing?? Have you sewn before but need a refresher course?? Has Pinterest piqued your interest in trying some projects but not sure how to get started?? Beginning quilters welcome? Let Mary help you at our Beginner's Circle Sewing Sessions.? This will be a 'learn as you go class' and very informal.? Bring your sewing machine (with manual) and basic sewing supplies such as scissors, pins, ruler and yes, the dreaded seam ripper.? If you have a project in mind, bring that too, or we can help you find your needed supplies in our store. Beginners younger than 12 should be accompanied by an adult wanting to learn too.??

Classes Meet: **Sat., March 6 at 9:30am - Noon.**

Classes Fee: \$20.00

FULL



Embroidery and Applique Tips for Cuddle® Minky Plush Fabric (& Video)



Yes, you can embroider Cuddle®!

Embroidering on Cuddle® is a great way to kick your projects up a notch and make them even better! Because Cuddle® is a plush knit, there are some things to keep in mind. We've gathered information from Mike Johns, an educator for Baby Lock USA and Sheila Ryan, owner of Designs by Babymoon and a Shannon Fabrics Brand Ambassador to help get you started!

Tips for Embroidering Cuddle®

- Choose a stabilizer based on design and end purpose.
- Float the Cuddle® by securing to hooped stabilizer.
- Add a basting box to keep fabric firmly positioned.
- Use ODIF 505 Spray to baste fabric to stabilizer if you don't want to use a basting box or sticky stabilizer.
- Use a water soluble stabilizer, but don't get it wet.
- Practice embroidery using the right materials for stabilizing - a shortcut may lead to disappointing results with your good fabric.
- Choose satin stitch appliqué designs with a 4 or 5 mm width to get a beautiful edge.
- Use a knockdown stitch so that embroidery design will pop or to give an embossed effect.
- Investigate digitizing software or digitizing functions on your embroidery machine so you can have complete control over your embroidery.

FOR CUDDLE® EMBROIDERY :

- Stabilizer for under the fabric:
- Cutaway soft stabilizer
 - No Show Mesh stabilizer or
 - Medium-weight cutaway stabilizer
- Stabilizer for over the fabric:
 - Water Soluble Stabilizer or
 - Melt Away Stabilizer
- 90/14 Embroidery Needle
- Mini Duckbill Scissors
- Precision Tweezers
- Polyester Thread

[Click here for video](#)

This is a recording from September

2021 All Iowa Shop Hop June 1 thru July 31, 2021

Preparations are underway for this year's All Iowa Shop Hop. For anyone who has not participated, this is a Shop Hop that Covers the entire state of Iowa. The more stores you visit the more chances you have of winning a prize.

Here's a sneak peak of the 2021 All Iowa Shop Hop Fabric. This beautiful line called "**A Winter Tour**" of Iowa is designed by the amazing Amanda Murphy!!!

It's arriving in our store in January and you can reserve your supply beginning FEBRUARY 1st!! Mark the date, and be sure to reach out to us to have us set some aside for you!! You can take possession any time after June 1st, but be sure to reserve yours - remember there is a limited supply of this fabric and 2020 fabric was a complete sell out!

Start making plans with your sewing friends to visit shops all over Iowa

