

CONNECTING THREADS

MAY-JUNE-JULY 2007

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

A GOOD READ 2

COLOR NEWS 2

NEW FROM PUNTI ANTICHI DESIGNS 3

A COWBOY'S GUIDE TO LIFE 3

NEW-'SILK ROAD' CLUB 4

POT-LUCK RECIPES 4

IDEA USING OUR DYED ON WHIM PACKS 5

SPECIAL POINTS OF INTEREST:

- New Designs using our threads from Puntì Antichi Designs
- Join our new 'Silk Road' Club
- Recipes for a Pot-Luck!
- A Needlecase made from our Dyed on A Whim Pack

A SHORT STORY—A RETURN TO THE OLD WEST OR WHAT HAPPENED TO THE ONLINE SHOPPING CART?

Once upon time there was a Miss Cece who didn't realize she actually was living in the old west. Cece thought she lived in the time of internet access where nearly any product you desired was available online from both the manufacturer as well as selected retailers. She decided to offer online ordering for people whose shops don't support her product or areas where there are no needlework shops. Although her intentions were not to hurt local or other online shops that supported her product, an angry gathering of shopowners began to form. She decided to 'get out of Dodge' - fast which resulted in the shopping cart being discontinued. Whew—it was a rough ride. . . .and the

horse died.

End of Story.

If all else fails—keep a sense of humor. A proverb: "If you are

being run out of town, get in front of the crowd and make it look like a parade!"



Friends, family and our horses are seen here in the Idaho Sawtooths where a Forest Fire burned the previous year. The Forest is just beginning the re-growth process here at 4th of July Creek.

LIFE SAVORS FOR MAY, JUNE & JULY

Opening the door to find a May Day basket with flowers.Sitting beneath the lilac tree.

A n old time candy store or soda fountain. Spring rains on metal roofs. Viewing the first return of a Robin Red Breast.Busy mother birds building nests. Turning the dark earth with my shovel.Picking asparagus on the ditch banks.Rhubarb Custard Pie. Remembering and honoring our dead by taking a quiet walk in a cemetery.Writing in my garden journal.

Stitching on the porch. A completed needlework project & starting several more new ones!!A Sidewalk sale. Fireworks against a night sky. . . .seeing a Fire fly for the first time. . . .(we don't have them in Idaho!) . . .Running through the sprinklers. . . .A horse ride in the pines. . . .

A GOOD READ

I picked up a book entitled: Dishrag Soup & Poverty Cake that is compiled by the Idaho Humanities Council. It is full of essays on food, and memories of food. We all have our own 'comfort foods' and food stories. One story of particular interest to me was about the digging of "Roots" with the Nez Perce. As winter snows give way to the beginning of spring it is the gathering time for the

roots—*qeqit, qews, qemes* that are dug with a special tool called a *tuges*. The tool is shaped like a "t", while gently lifting the earth to take the root with no holes or furrows left to show anything has been disturbed. These roots have been a food gathering tradition for 10,000 years!

I am humbled when I fix a treasured family recipe that I know also fed my Grand-

mother's family, perhaps in times of great hardship or great happiness.

What food traditions do you have? Share these special stories with your children and grandchildren. . . you'll be glad you did!



(L to R) Tattered Parchment, Pears & Poppies, Grapefruit Kisses and Summer Blossoms

NEW COLORS

We've added a few new colors to several lines. We will be adding these to the website over the next week. We added a neutral color called Tattered Parchment to the Silk 'n Colors and Ribbon lines, as well as several colors that include 'pink'; Summer Bouquet, Grapefruit Kisses and Pears and Poppies. We've also added new colors to our Oriental Linen line, Blue Crow, Peacock and

Deep Water (some nice blues to round out our pallet and Peacock because it is fabulous in the Oriental Linen). We also added Peacock, Autumn on the Cape & Aegean Twilight to the Silken Chenille line. They all make beautiful spider web roses.

We have several new colors in the Sea Grass line, 2 neutrals, a soft apricot color and a deep olive green.

Additional Dyed on A Whim packs are now on the website with more to be added in the next month. Your local shop can order them in for you or you can order them individually from us directly. If you sign up for the Dyed on A Whim Club you automatically receive one monthly. After you purchase 12 on the club, you get the 13th one for half price!!



(L to R) Blueberry Fields in Silken Pearl #10 & #5, Aegean Twilight and Autumn on the Cape in Silken Chenille

NEW DESIGNS FROM GIULIA PUNTI ANTICHI USING OUR THREADS & THE SPECIAL PINS THAT GO WITH THE PINKEEPS!

My Friend Giulia, from Punt Antichi Designs has out done herself with once again with her My Tuscany Box. This fabulous piece showcases the motifs and colors of Tuscany. The beautiful pins that go along with the pinkeep are made by a French Company

and we are the source (both retail and wholesale) in the US. We are also stocking the pins for her new design (actually a set of designs) Isotta's Biscornu, Sweetbag, & wall piece. I am in love with the flowered pins that go with Isotta's Biscornu.

Please see Giulia's pieces on her website:

www.puntiantichi.com

The Retail Price for the pins is:

Isotta's Pins—\$8.00

My Tuscany Pins—\$10.00

Dyed on a Whim Club offers unique stitching & needleart fibers on a monthly basis direct to your door!

A COWBOY'S GUIDE TO LIFE

Shared by a man who wrote: "I can remember a few of these gems being whispered into my ear, during the 'being molded' time in my life by my uncle who was the only father I ever had, and a real cowboy".

Your fences need to be horse high, pig tight and bull strong.

Life ain't about how fast you run, or how high you climb, but how well you bounce.

Keep skunks, bankers, lawyers at a distance.

Life is simpler when you plow around the stump.

A bumble be is considerably faster than a John Deere tractor.

Words that soak into your ears are whispered. . . .not yelled.

Meanness don't jest happen overnight.

Forgive your enemies. It messes with their heads.

Do not corner something that you know is meaner than you.

It don't take a very big person to carry a grudge.

You cannot unsay a cruel word.

Ever path has a few puddles.

When you wallow with pigs expect to get dirty.

The best sermons are lived, not preached.

Most of the stuff people worry about ain't never gonna happen anyway.

Don't judge folks by their relatives.

Remember that silence is sometimes the best answer.

Live a good, honorable life. Then when you get older and think back, you'll enjoy it a second time.

Don't interfere with something' that ain't botherin' you none.

Timing has a lot to do with the outcome of a rain dance.

The easiest way to eat crow is while it's still warm, 'cuase the colder it gets, the harder it is to swaller.

If you find yourself in a hole, the first thing to do is stop diggin'.

It don't take a genius to spot a goat in a flock of sheep.

Sometimes you get, and sometimes you get got.

The biggest troublemaker you'll probably ever have to deal with watches you shave his face in the mirror every morning'.

If you get to thinking' you're a person of some influence, try orderin' somebody else's dog around.

Always drink upstream from the herd.

Good judgement comes from experience, and a lotta that comes from bad judgement.

Lettin' the cat outta the bag is a whole lot easier than puttin' it in.

Don't squat with your spurs on. And finally, Never fry bacon naked.



Lexi

"If you get to thinking you're a person of some influence, try orderin' somebody else's dog around."



Copper



My Son, Gage riding Gus in the Idaho Sawtooths.

REMINDERS OF GENTLER TIMES IN HAND-DYED THREADS & RIBBONS

Black Bean & Corn Salsa

- 1 Can Black Beans, drained and rinsed well
 - 1 Can White Shoe-peg corn, drained if in liquid
 - 1 Avocado, diced (dice and add just before serving)
 - 1 Tomato, Diced
 - 1 Red-onion, finely diced
 - 2 T cilantro, chopped (don't use stems)
 - 1 Tablespoon olive oil
 - 1 Tablespoon red-wine vinegar or seasoned rice wine vinegar (I prefer the seasoned rice vinegar)
 - Salt & Pepper to Taste
 - Juice of 3 limes
- Combine all ingredients except the Avocado and chill for several hours. Add the avocado just before serving.
- Great served with tortilla chips or eaten "as is".

The Best Ever Guacamole

- 5-6 Avocados (use the Black skinned ones if possible for best flavor) These will be added after you complete the following step:
- Combine in food processor and blend until finely chopped and almost pureed:
- 1 sweet white onion, diced
 - 1 Tomato, diced (no need to peel)
 - 1 jalapeno pepper, chopped
- Juice of 3 limes
- 3-4 Cloves of Garlic
- Mash the Avocados and stir in the above pureed mixture. Season to taste with Salt & Pepper. Wash and add the avocado pits. Refrigerator for several hours making sure you securely cover dish with plastic wrap to keep air out.
- Recipe courtesy of LeAnn Dolly-Powell a family friend.

JOIN OUR NEW 'SILK ROAD CLUB'

Beginning October 1st we are offering a Thread and Ribbon Club that we are calling our 'Silk Road Club'! This is a 'retail only' club available directly from us. Each month you will receive 2—Silk 'n Colors and 1—Ribbon that matches or coordinates with the Silk 'n Colors. The ribbon type will vary from our 4mm, 7mm and Savoir Faire lines. The colors will be dyed exclusively for our "Silk Road Club" and will not include colors offered in our regular lines.

We may add a color dyed for our Silk Road Club to our regular lines at a later date, but most will be limited to the Club.

The cost for this club is:

\$16.75 a month. Shipping (US only) is included in this amount. International shipping will be additional. The retail value of the silks and ribbons without shipping is \$19.60 so this is a great value for limited edition colors.

You may start signing up for this club at any time. Please sign-up by September 10th for the October Club Selection. (By Oct 10th for the Nov. Club Shipment etc.) We will dye only enough for those signed up in the club each month. This club is limited to 300 members, taken on a first-to-sign-up basis.

Occasionally we will pay a designer to design a 'free' chart that will be included. Any charms or bead packs used with the designs will be available for purchase from us as separate items.

This is the information we need from you to join the club:

Your name & complete address.

Phone number (daytime)

Credit Card information (use 2 emails)

Email Address

State on your email that you are joining our 'Silk Road Club'

We will also accept payments by paypal. Please note if you'd like to pay by this option and we'll email you when it is time to send your paypal payment.

You may contact us the following ways:

By Telephone: (208) 387-2641

Mountain standard time M-F 8:00-5:00

By Fax: (208) 387-1251

By Mail: The Thread Gatherer

2108 Norcrest Drive

Boise, ID 83705

By email: thethreadgatherer@msn.com



Here is an example of using one of our Dyed on A Whim packs to make a needle case. The hand dyed silk (dupioni) was included in the pack along with the hand-dyed silk satin ribbon (our Rom-tique Line) and threads. The items I added to make the needle case included: beads (for edge finishing), inner lining fabric, buttons and felt to hold needles. I also used skirtex to stabilize the needle



Needle Case Made Using one of our Dyed-On-A-Whim Packs