



WITWATERSRAND EMBROIDERS' GUILD ("WEG")

NEWSLETTER

ISSUE 1 – JANUARY 2023

Hello Everyone

It was with sadness that we said a reluctant goodbye to our previous Newsletter Editor, Margaret Place. Her personal obligations were such that she was unable to continue in this role and she has left big shoes for us to fill. Thank you, Margaret, for your dedication and commitment.

I have had the pleasure of taking over the editorial position from her, but it will take some time for me to reach the standards she set. Please bear with me while I get up to speed and feel free to let me know if there are things you wish me to include or if there are any changes I should make.

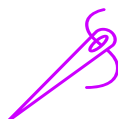
The issuing of this, our first Newsletter for 2023, was unfortunately delayed by numerous technical glitches and personal issues on my side and I apologise for my tardiness. Our chairlady did her best to hurry me along and I promise to do better next time!

We also bid a sad goodbye to another member of our Committee, Carol Robinson. She's been facing some exciting challenges including helping with a wedding and the arrival of her Mom from Zimbabwe. Thank you for the wonderful workshops you've organised Carol, we look forward to seeing you at our meetings when you're back in the embroidery groove.

It's with great excitement that we welcome Alice Per to our ranks. She has taken on the daunting task of facilitating our new "external" workshops and we wish her everything of the best in her new role.

Kind regards

Toni



We'd like to congratulate those who celebrated a special day in January 2023. The following ladies had birthdays this month and we wish them all the very best.

Amina Ismail	18 January
Danny Wimpey	31 January

Please let us know if you were also a January baby so we can update our records



For those of you who have been lucky enough to attend our Tuesday and/or Saturday meetings, isn't it great being back? For those of us who haven't yet done so, here's a reminder of the details:

WEG Meetings are held:

- at Roosevelt Park Recreation Centre, 73 Preller Drive, Franklin Roosevelt Park, Randburg
- every Tuesday morning from 09h00 to 12h00
- the 2nd and 4th Saturday of each month from 13h00 to 16h00

Annual membership fees are due and payable by 31 January each year. The fees for 2023, which include the cost of refreshments, are as follows:

- | | |
|--|---------|
| • Members younger than 90 years | R300.00 |
| • Members aged 90 years and older | Free |
| • Attending meetings requires joining the Roosevelt Park Recreation Centre but there is no cost involved | |

For more information, please reach out to us at:



- **Email:** witsembroidery@gmail.com
- **Instagram:** @Witsembroidery
- **Facebook:** Jozi Stitch

On THAT note, ladies **please** volunteer to provide eats for our meetings. All of us should contribute at least once so that the rest of the WEG can taste your delicious baking (or that of your nearest *tuisnywerheid* if you're a "challenged" baker). You're welcome to team up if it makes it easier, just remember that only counts as 1 contribution 😊. A suggestion was made that we opt to "cater" on/around our birthdays, so please, put your names down on the tea register and let's salivate together.



I urge current and potential members to please complete and return your WEG membership form, a copy of which is attached at the end of this Newsletter, along with your annual fees, as soon as possible.

For those of you who have “forgotten” what we look like, here are headshots of the current WEG Committee ...

	<p>Toni Billing Secretary</p> 	<p>Danny Wimpey Chairlady</p> 	<p>Helen O’Hanrahan* Treasurer</p> 	
<p>Agness Janse van Rensburg</p> 	<p>Diane Walker</p> 	<p>Alice Per</p> 	<p>Jenni Langford</p> 	<p>Jenny Henning</p> 

* Picture unavailable at the time of issue

WORKSHOPS

Our first EXTERNAL “Beginners” Workshop is scheduled for Saturday 11 February 2023 from 09h00 to 16h00. The cost will be R300.00 per person and this will include the kit, refreshments and a light lunch. Students will need to bring scissors, a notepad as well as a pen and the venue will be advised in due course. Alice Per will be facilitating the Workshop and interested parties should sign-up before the end of January 2023.

We would like to expand these Workshops to school and university students during their holidays and we urge Members to “spread the word” to interested parties.

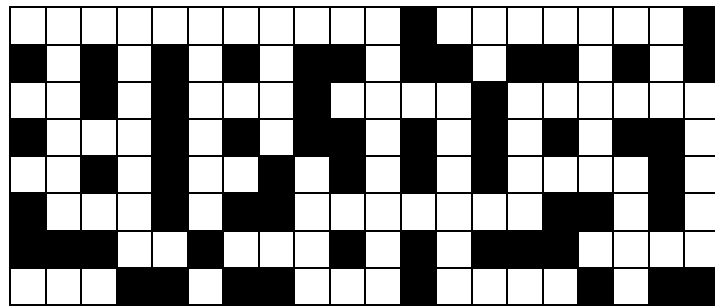
Our INTERNAL Workshops will continue as normal and some exciting projects are being planned. Don’t miss them!

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The WEG’s Annual General Meeting will be held on Saturday 25 March from 12h00 until 13h00 at Roosevelt Park Recreation Centre. Any discussion items for the Agenda should be communicated to Danny Wimpey by the end of February 2023.

Please make every effort to attend so that your voice may be heard. We want our Members to be happy and involved every step of the way.

FIRE-UP YOUR EMBROIDERY BRAIN



Clues:

Down

1. Thread brand
2. DMC pieces
3. Fabric or thread type
4. Have to have
5. Usually in a pair
6. Popular stitch
7. Not out
8. Opposite of silver
9. Inside
10. Website for crafts
11. Eyes are needed
12. A must for straight lines

Across

1. Dissolves or discarded after use
2. Used in stump work
3. Didn't work at last WEG meeting
4. When making a knot
5. Use to keep fabric in place
6. Done on a pleater when smocking
7. Colour
8. Crafters don't know this word
9. Put a pattern to fabric
10. Attract
11. Vibrant colour
12. To stop thread pulling through
13. Another way to "sew"
14. Need a keen one for embroidery
15. Handler
16. Unfinished work
17. Me
18. To be, past tense
19. Keeps embroidery tight

WEG BANNERS

We want to preserve our banners so any Members who can help us sew fabric bags within which we can store them, please contact Jenni Langford. She is kindly arranging for stands to be made so that we may display these "works of art" more often.

We also want to keep a record of the embroiderers who were part of these projects so any historical information would be welcome. The intention is to print the names, dates and inspiration that led to the creation of these pieces, onto fabric and then attach these labels to the back of each banner for posterity.

SPRING CLEAN

On Saturday 21 January 2023, the Committee conducted a "spring clean" of all the WEG cupboards. We wish to thank those who offered up their time to do this, long overdue, task.

While doing this, we realised that the WEG does not have any work on display in the Roosevelt Park Recreation Centre. It was agreed that some of the beautiful work, currently stored in the cupboards, be donated to the Centre. I'm sure you'll agree that displaying the skills of our Members on its walls would be the best way to honour those who have gone before us.



MARKET

Our Market last year at Trinity Church was a great success, as we've mentioned before. We are looking at arranging another one on 27 May 2023, so put on those thinking caps and start preparing. Let's make the next WEG Market even bigger and better.

For those of you who aren't yet aware of our proposed embroidery seminar, may I reiterate the details below

IGHALI

Updates are being sent to interested members. Those wishing to be kept abreast of developments are welcome to send their email addresses to me at tbilling@nbc.co.za. If you're interested in reading about its origins, I've included some information below.

History

The original concept was that of Via Laurie, chairlady of the Helderberg Embroiderers' Guild in 2001. Via's vision was a gathering of the Cape Embroidery Guilds, in order to share information and teachers.

The word "Ighali" is derived from the Xhosa word for "thread" and the idea was to host an Ighali every second year, opening it to guild members as well as the general public.

The aim of the gathering was to hold hand embroidery lessons of exceptional quality, from traditional to contemporary, and for these to be presented by skilled embroidery teachers. In so doing, participating embroiderers would be exposed to *educational, informative, constructive, inspiring and hands-on embroidery workshops.*

Previously Ighali gatherings were hosted by:

- *Helderberg Embroiderers' Guild 2001 Brenton on Sea, Knysna*
- *Helderberg Embroiderers' Guild 2003 Brenton on Sea, Knysna*
- *Port Elizabeth Embroiderers' Guild 2005 Port St Francis, St Francis Bay*
- *Knysna Embroiderers' Guild 2007 Blue Whale Resort/Kwelanga Lodge, George*
- *Cape Embroiderers' Guild 2009 Fish Hoek*
- *Helderberg Embroiderers' Guild 2012 Hermanus*
- *Port Elizabeth Embroiderers' Guild 2014 St Luke's Retreat, Port Elizabeth*
- *Knysna Embroiderers' Guild 2016 Belvidere Manor Hotel, Knysna*
- *Cape Embroiderers' Guild 2018 Schoenstatt Retreat and Conference Centre, Constantia*

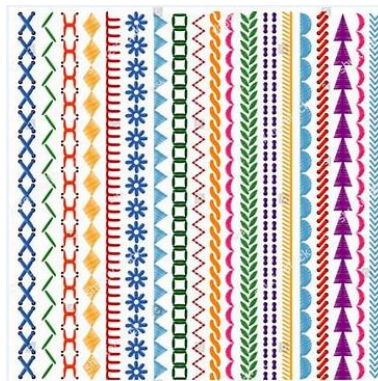
Going forward

Initially, Ighali 2020 was to be hosted by the Witwatersrand Embroidery Guild in Muldersdrift, Gauteng. This was the first time that our province was to participate in what had previously been a Cape Province arrangement. Sadly, due to the Covid pandemic, all our plans had to be shelved.

Nevertheless, we hope to reinstate the programme in 2023/2024 and will provide more details as they become available. We urge you to start saving for this awesome event as soon as possible.

Once a date and venue are finalised we will circulate this information and we recommend that you “Save the Date” as bookings will be on a first-come, first-served basis.

We look forward to creating many new embroidery friendships at Ighali!





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NEW/UPDATED MEMBERSHIP

I wish to join/remain a member of the WEG	Y		N	
I wish to resign, but would like to keep in contact	Y		N	
I do not wish to remain a member. Please remove my details	Y		N	

NAME				
ADDRESS				
PHONE NUMBER (H)				
PHONE NUMBER (W)				
CELL NUMBER				
EMAIL ADDRESS				
BIRTHDAY				
NAME (emergency contact)				
ADDRESS (emergency contact)				
CONTACT NUMBER (emergency contact)				
TUESDAY MEETING ATTENDANCE	Y		N	Members may attend any/all meetings
SATURDAY MEETING ATTENDANCE	Y		N	

Please hand the completed form to our Secretary Toni Billing or send it to her at billingt@nbc.co.za.

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Members, by virtue of their membership in the WEG, consent to the processing of their personal information for the explicit purpose of participation in the WEG's activities. Such consent includes their knowledge and consent that this information may be collected and accessed directly or indirectly, by or through the WEG, provided that all parties so involved must be compliant with the Protection of Personal Information Act, No. 4 of 2013, as may be amended from time to time, and the requirements in terms of this Act and that all such parties shall be specifically mandated to do so by the WEG.