

Rami Kim. What an extraordinary artist and personality. SRQG has an amazing line-up of Programs and Workshops. I am so glad that I bumped into Linda Hooper - sorry about your toes, my Lady - she told me she was surprised that I had not signed up for the workshop and she had fully expected my name to be first on the sign-up sheet. I replied that my machine does not do fancy embroidery so I'd just sit this one out.

Linda explained that if my machine has zigzag and straight stitch, which it does, I could make the purse sample, easy-peasy. She had me at "zigzag," much to my delight. I blossomed under Kami's tutelage and Phyllis' generous support in the ironing department. I was able to finish the embroidery before wine-thirty.

After signing up for the workshop I realized my meet with Linda was providence. My beloved and much-missed Granny had tried to teach me machine embroidery back in the mid 80's. Can you imagine what a flippin' dynamo I would be by now if I had received her instruction? She set me up with everything I could possibly need from the dedicated machine to the hoops to the silk spools of thread. I was into sewing clothes back then so the "creative side" was put on hold. Granny was with me all day. I know that she was much pleased with my efforts and energies.

There were so many tips and tricks, and not all of them from Rami. For example, Joann, in a moment of "Shenious," took a plainer to her embroidery hoop to get the quarter-inch spacing needed to get the hoop under the needle. One useful tip from Rami was when weaving, weave over the bumpy side of interfacing and then iron in place. Wow! So simple and yet so effective! If you would like to experience the rich knowledge and camaraderie of an intimate environment with hand maidens at each seat, take an SRQG workshop and watch your creative world expand while building friendships.

Our Head Mistresses were, as ever, gentle and loving mums caring for our every need and even laid out a faboo cookie spread after lunch (a delicious reward for eating our entire sandwiches).

One precious moment for me was when a dear soul approached me and asked if Meadow had made my sewing basket. "Yes," I said, "she did make one special for me. I told Meadow cobalt blue makes me happy and by the next guild meeting I had a beautiful blue basket that reminds me - every time I lay eyes on it - that Meadow will be - in spirit - a part of all my projects.