

**History of Foothills Chapter
Embroiderers' Guild of America**
October, 2008

Foothills Chapter was chartered in January of 1972. It had originally been the West Area group of the Colorado Chapter but functioned independently with its own programs and library and as a result its own budget. After Colorado Chapter asked West Area group to turn over their money to them and disband their library, the executive board of the West Area group decided to separate from the Colorado Chapter and form their own independent chapter. At the time they were meeting at the Foothills Art Center in Golden, so the name Foothills Chapter was chosen. Foothills Chapter became the 18th chapter accepted into the Embroiderers' Guild of America with Marian M. was the first president of the chapter.

The chapter tablecloth came about out of necessity – a cloth was needed to cover the refreshment table and not every hostess had one that was large enough. An evenweave polyester and flax blend fabric with about forty threads per inch was purchased from the Sears catalog. It was hemstitched by five early members using books from the library for guidance. The ladies embroidered their names on the tablecloth and presented it to the chapter in 1973. From then on members are encouraged to add their names to the tablecloth in either cross stitch or embroidery.

Beginning with the first exhibit at the Foothills Art Center from Oct. 17 to Nov. 5th, 1972, Foothills had an annual exhibit for a number of years. One hundred pieces were shown at that first exhibit. After the move to the Arvada Center in January, 1978, Foothills continued to have periodic exhibits. Channel 6 filmed one of the first exhibits at the Arvada Center. Smaller exhibits were set up at local libraries as well. The first was in 1979 and the last in 2003 at the Lakewood Library.

Foothills moved to the Arvada Center for meetings in January of 1978. The first meeting was a tour of the facility. In May, 1992 the chapter began to meet at First Presbyterian Church in Lakewood. The Arvada Center was going through major remodeling and we needed a temporary meeting place. After a few months, the chapter decided that they liked the central meeting place and decided to stay there permanently. Also, after the remodeling, the Arvada Center did not allow the chapter to bring in food for lunch. They required that food service be catered by their contracted catering company.

From December 1974 the chapter always had their Christmas party at the home of Glenrose Heckel. It was a potluck lunch on Glenrose's Christmas plates and was quite an elegant affair. The Christmas gift exchange was started then and Glenrose contributed the 'Gift' poem to be used for the exchange. The Christmas party was moved to the Presbyterian Church in 1992 when her health began to fail.

Foothills Chapter has participated in two national EGA seminars in the Denver area. At the first one in 1977, a number of pieces by Foothills Chapter members were included in the exhibit at the Denver Art Museum. During the national seminar in Denver in 1995 at the Denver tech Center, Foothills Chapter had a lovely community outreach display.

Foothills has hosted one spring region board meeting in April of 1992 and one region seminar in July of 2004. The class at the spring meeting was Colorwork – Blackwork Gone Chromatic taught by Jacque Winton. Beverly B. was seminar chairman for the 2004 region seminar which was held at the Doubletree Hotel near the old Stapleton airport. It was a very successful seminar with 163 participants and 10 teachers. We will be hosting another region seminar in the summer of 2011.

Over the years Foothills has had a number of national teachers visit the chapter including Betty Chen Lois, Kay Stanis, Marion Scoular, Mary Fry, Susan Tidwell, Barbara Thomas, Nan Euler, Barbara Rakosnik, June Moes, and Vima Micaeli to name a few. We have also had a number of our local teachers as well, such as Marnie Ritter, Susan Goodman, Caela Tyler, Joan Thomasson, Nina Soltwedel, Jody Gergens, Carolyn Sherman, and Dakota Rogers.

In 1994 the Silver Scissors award was established to reward members who have gone 'above and beyond', giving their time to the chapter. A small silver scissors is given to each recipient to wear on her nametag. The recipients have been Beverly B., Helen Borene, Donna C., Joan Hawkins, Glenrose Heckel, Irene Hubis, Lu Land, Nancy Miller, Elva Overman, Ann Pinfield, Bette Sargent, Dakota Rogers, Marilyn Tofflemoyer, and Janice Wood.

Our first chapter nametag was created by Dakota Rogers in 1991. This is the one with the orange feet across the middle. In January of 2006 a new nametag with mountains and aspen trees was designed by Janice Wood to match the chapter banner that was stitched by the members in 2004. The banner project was coordinated by Donna C. with members stitching the leaves on the trees with different needlework patterns. Before that the chapter had a large hoop with the Foothills logo on it, but it proved to be difficult to put into a suitcase to take to region meetings.

In July of 1991 we had our first annual Foothills Recipe Exchange and Sale. Ann Pinfield collected recipes on her computer for dishes brought to the monthly lunches. Then she sold them to the members for 10 cents a sheet. We now sell our recipes for the year at the annual meeting in November.

We became a sister chapter with an Australian chapter and several members exchanged gifts during the year with their 'sisters' in the Australian chapter. In

May of 1993 a group of woman from our sister chapter visited the Foothills and we had a get-together at Bette Sargent's house.

Donna C. has been our official photographer since the mid 1990s. She has taken group pictures at the Christmas party every year and began taking group pictures at the region seminars in 2000. They have been a wonderful addition to the history books.

More recently Dakota Rogers designed a Foothills Sampler for our 25th birthday party in 1997; in 2004 we donated \$1000 to national EGA for the purchase of a display case in the new headquarters; and we stitched on the EGA National Tapestry from July 2006 until May of 2007. We have also had six stitcher's needlework showcased at the meetings with a Stitchers Showcase. The first was Gloria Morgan followed by Helen Borene, Nancy Miller, Bette Sargent, Val S., and Judith Ewegen.

Foothills has had a long and active 36 years. The chapter has had two members who served as Region Director – Nancy Miller and Bette Sargent; three Clare award winners – Ann Pinfield, Bette Sargent, and Nancy Miller; and two Gold Thread Award winners – Ann Pinfield and Caela Tyler. We look forward to another 36 wonderful years together.