



First place winner Georgeanna Sanfilippo (center) receives her Baby Lock Ellegante machine from Sewing World dealers Randy and Vivian Luster in Ft. Worth, TX.



Winning pillow from Georgeanna Sanfilippo

1, 2, 3... PUNCH!



2nd place winning pillow from Trudy Flynn



3rd place winning pillow from Kathy Engelmeyer

You've no doubt heard of American Idol, but have you heard of Punching Idol? 60 students tried, and only 9 made it to the PUNCH!

Designer and author Christopher Nejman challenged 60 students to learn his unique methods of punching fabrics using a Baby Lock Embellisher machine. Based on his best selling book *Pillows: Designer Sewing Techniques*, the students spent three to 11 months studying, learning and making samples before their final weekend challenge. All were schooled in Nejman's philosophy: Breaking the Rules of Creativity! The triumph -- certification to teach Christopher's exclusive methods to students around the country.

The final group challenge was to build a pillow using their new skills based on the theme "The Magical Forest of Good and

Evil.” Not only were they required to create an award-winning pillow based on this mystical premise, but they had to do so in a single weekend, using pantyhose in their fabric creation! As if that wasn’t enough, they also had to take quality photos showing the step-by-step details of their work, and develop a PowerPoint presentation to entice the judges, and later, their students.

Judges included Linda Griepentrog, former editor of *Sew News* magazine; Sandra Betzina, owner of Power Sewing; Kenneth King, designer to the stars; Pam Mashie, Baby Lock national educational ambassador; Candy Wiza, acquisitions manager of KP books; Kate Bashynski, sewing assistant to Nancy Zieman and artist for Christopher Nejman’s embroidery CDs; Chris Tryon, Baby Lock educational coordinator, standing in for Steve Jeffery, Baby Lock president; and *Crazy Quilting* books author Barbara Randle. Their challenge -- rating the entrants on 18 detailed categories.

First place winner Georgeanna Sanfilippo of Grandbury, TX, received a Baby Lock Ellegante 2 machine from her dealer, Sewing World, in Ft. Worth, TX, and a selection of Robison Anton embroidery threads.

Second place winner Trudy Flynn of Hypoluxo, FL, won a Sulky Metallic Thread package and a Dream World clear sewing machine table.

Third prize winner Kathy Engelmeyer of St. Ann, MO, took home an Amazing Designs CD package and a Dream World clear sewing table.

The book of inspiration, Christopher Nejman’s *Pillows*, published by Krause Publications, is 128 pages of fun, featuring more than 200 color photos to inspire and teach the unique techniques on 15 pillows. Using non-traditional punching methods, flamboyant fabrics, novelty threads, decorative stitches and a few uncommon presser feet, the book serves to inspire all the students who participated in the certification process.

In 2009, not only is Nejman publishing another book titled *Celebrity Bags*, but he plans to take his certification program on the road. Visit www.christophernejman.com for more information on punching classes and the licensing program, or call 1-727-372-4888. ☺

