

Loose Ends & Gathered Threads

Newsletter of the North Suburban NeedleArts Guild
April 2015

*Never be afraid to try something new. Remember, amateurs built the ark.
Professionals built the Titanic. (unknown)*

Val's musings

"If we had no winter, the Spring would not be so pleasant"..... Anne Bradstreet.

We all know that we have had quite a winter. We've broken temperature records, it's lasted too long, and bad weather frequently occurred on NSNG guild meeting days. But we carried on and did not miss a beat.

I awoke to birds singing, and saw my spring bulbs peeking their heads up in the dirt. The days are longer and the light is changing daily, so I'm declaring winter officially over.

Some exciting guild changes are on the horizon for the last two months. The nominating committee has a wonderful slate of officers to present. Read about this further on in the newsletter. We have 2 more exciting lectures and programs, a pot luck in May, and a wonderful picnic in July. The summer picnic is the guild's gift to you members of a delicious lunch and a reasonably priced mini workshop during that day. It's our only summer activity, so plan on attending.

We have decided on the topic for the Annual Project. It is "**Garden Pathways.**" It fits right in with this new Spring season. It will be presented in the month of December at the holiday party. So, start the wheels turning. This topic can lead you in many directions and I'm sure it will be inspiring. It will also make this Spring last until the holidays....what could be better!

Please note that our meeting is the second Tuesday, April 14th, this month, because the first Tuesday is election day.

Valerie

CALENDAR

Tues. Apr. 7, Service projects, Jeanette Page's, see p.7

Tues. April 14 9 - 9:30 am Socializing, sign up for workshops. At Gloria Dei, Cherry and Pfingsten in Northbrook

9:30 am Lecture by Sherrill Kahn A New Way of Looking at Fiber

Tues afternoon

Mini Workshop Stana Coleman Ribbonwork. See p 6

Begin 2-1/2 day workshop Sherrill Kahn, Colored pencil techniques

Wed-Thurs, April 15-16 9:30 am, continuation of Workshop with Sherrill Kahn at Gloria Dei

Tues April 21 10 am Board meeting at Gloria Dei

Thurs. April 23 noon. Deadline for May newsletter.

Tues. April 28, Service projects at Jeanette Page's, see p. 7

Please note that April's general meeting will be a week later than usual—April 14th

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Loose Ends and Gathered Threads is the newsletter of the North Suburban NeedleArts Guild which meets in Northbrook, Illinois. It is published 8 times per year, monthly except for June, July, August and December. Copy deadlines for the upcoming issue will be included in the calendar of each newsletter.

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1/8 page \$4 per issue or \$25 for 8 issues
 1/4 page \$8 per issue or \$50 for 8 issues
 1/2 page \$16 per issue or \$100 for 8 issues

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Sherrill Kahn April 14-16, 2015

<http://www.impressmenow.com>

Sherrill is a retired art teacher, with 30 years' experience in teaching drawing and painting. She has taught throughout the world, and has written seven books, about fifty magazine articles, produced a DVD and has six fabric lines.

She loves to teach more than anything.

Lecture: A new way of looking at fiber

2 ½ day Workshop: Colored Pencil Techniques

Open to total novices and more experienced alike Sherrill will teach colored pencil techniques. She has spent thousands of hours doing colored pencil work and can see its use in every imaginable creative project.

Currently, colored pencils are being used on digital images, fabric quilts and wall hangings, in fine art, mixed media, and more.

On Tuesday afternoon, we will work on color theory—making hundreds of colors with just 3 pencils! After our techniques lesson, we will take a digital picture and layer colors on the picture. Next, we will use colored pencils, oil pastels and roll-up crayons to do rubbings on fabric.

Boot Camp for Artists

The Art Center of Highland Park is hosting a one day Boot Camp for Artists on Saturday, April 25th starting 10 am. Admission Free.

Amy Amdur of Amdur Productions is the featured speaker. Amy is producer of twenty annual Fine Art Festivals across the country. Amy definitely knows what she is talking about and brings a wealth of information on how to speak about your art, give pointers on display as well as how to best represent yourself as an artist. Attending artists are encouraged to bring a sample of their original artwork to hang or to show.

Amy has a long and distinguished career promoting art and artists and Amy is headquartered right here in HP. If you would like to attend, contact:

jchilow@theartcenterhp.org

Catherine Lowe, May 5 - 7

Catherine Lowe is known for her original and unique construction techniques and her pairing of luxury fiber with elegant design. She has developed an approach to hand-knitting that rethinks the traditional technical and design vocabularies of the hand-knitter and translates the distinctive elements of haute couture dressmaking into refined techniques. Her designs and articles have appeared in *Vogue Knitting*, *Interweave Knits*, *Knitting Lessons* by Lela Nargi and in *KnitKnit: Profiles + Projects from Knitting's New Wave* by Sabrina Gschwandtner. Her book, *The Ravell'd Sleeve*, is available from lulu.com.

Lecture & Trunk Show: Couture Knitting

Catherine will discuss how couture dressmaking has inspired her knitting practice and explain how she has sought to translate its principles into hand-knitting techniques that change the look of one's knitting.

2 ½ day Workshop:

The Basic Techniques of Couture Knitting

This workshop is a hands-on introduction to those techniques of couture knitting that are the foundation of Catherine Lowe's signature approach to garment construction and finishing. Along with a discussion of what constitutes couture knitting and a presentation of the principles of line and fit that are the core of her design philosophy, Catherine will guide workshop participants as they learn the techniques, explore their application and discover how to adapt commercial patterns for their use. These techniques include the use of selvages for garment construction, picking up and knitting down stitches, joinery for construction and as a design element, and couture finishes for garment edges. Knitters leave this workshop having acquired the skills to reproduce the distinctive construction and finishing that are the hallmark of couture knitting.

Speakers and Workshops 2015-2016

Stephen Pittelkow, September 1-3, 2015

Steve Pittelkow has been marbling for over 30 years creating beautiful papers with wonderful color and precise technique to enhance his amateur book-binding. Steve teaches marbling extensively in book art centers, colleges, and universities both here and Europe.

Lecture and Demonstration: Historic and Contemporary Marbling on Paper

Our presenter will show many examples of historical marbling as well as work by contemporary artists, and demonstrate several patterns while explaining the process.

2-1/2 Day Workshop: Marbled Box

Students will practice the proper techniques for creating many patterns and how to continue marbling at home. In the second part of the class, we'll create a beautiful box in the French cartonnage style using your own papers.

Susan Lenart Kazmer, October 6-8, 2015

Susan's work as a silversmith and artist of 20 years, involves pieces that reference history, as well as contemporary urban life. Her work tells stories of real people living real life through the use of silver, metal, glass, resin, wood and other mixed-media materials. She's built talismans, prayer boxes and amulets for the fashion, museum, gallery and commercial world as well as large sculptural pieces for museums including The Smithsonian, and The Art Institute of New York. *Resin Alchemy*, Susan's second book, was on the Amazon 2013 best seller list. Currently, Susan's new work can be seen in the March 2014 issue of *ELLE* and on the shelves of Michaels, where she sells an exclusive component line of jewelry.

Lecture: Creating Relics, Ruins and Personal Objects

Two Day Workshop: Resin Alchemy

Explore beyond pouring a bezel in Susan's 2-day technique-based class. Learn the basics of resin and its properties, then use ground breaking techniques such as creating and working with resin paper, producing faux stones including druzy, opal and crystal, cold enameling, casting and wire techniques. Learn how to build with resin in layers by scratching, crackling and coloring each surface. You will leave with a few pendants and components and a journal full of ideas.

Kat Wisniewski- November 10, 2015

In 2005, Kat Wisniewski established Elemental Art Jewelry with the goal of bringing distinctive handmade wirework and chainmaille jewelry to both male and female clients. Kat finds much of her inspiration from

her love of the geometric design of everyday objects and including the machinery in industrial and factory buildings, creating luscious textures with brilliant colors. Elemental Art Jewelry is primarily comprised of woven circular pieces of glass and metal, which Kat simply refers to as "glass chainmaille".

Lecture- Selling Your Art Online

She will cover many topics including pricing your jewelry for profit, selling on Etsy, starting your own website, professional packaging and shipping, accepting credit card payments online, and great jewelry photography on a budget.

1/2 Day Workshop- Bold and Byzantine Bracelet

You will make a bracelet, Bold and Byzantine. Find out how to incorporate solid glass rings into chainmaille designs for a truly innovative look. The pre-requisite is one chainmaille class or knowledge of one weave.

Jan Gerber, January 5-7, 2016

As a textile artist and designer, Jan Gerber has taught, woven, dyed, spun, embroidered, sewn, knitted and quilted her way through life. She worked as an art teacher, a window designer, conference planner, and youth leader. While raising a family she operated her business, Perceptions Ltd., in which she designed and produced custom-woven fabrics for interiors. Her creation of the group, "Women's Journeys in Fiber," in 1998 has been a journey of discovery. Artists work individually and as a group on the same problem, sharing the creative process, and creating powerful works that connect their hands and voices.

Lecture- Conductivity and Creativity

This will be an overview of innovation in electronic textiles with solutions from various disciplines.

Two Day Workshop-Creating Electronic Textiles

You will focus on understanding circuits, tools and materials specific to e-textiles. Your e-textile confidence will be increased by working on a selection of small projects that will allow you to incorporate electronic circuits into your own work.

Akemi Cohn, February 2-4, 2016

Akemi Cohn was born in Yokohama, Japan, and currently lives in Chicago. She studied traditional Japanese dyeing techniques, such as Shibori for ten years under the master dyer Haru Izumi in Japan. She received her MFA in Fiber Art from Cranbrook Academy of Art. Akemi has taught and exhibited locally, nationally, and internationally.

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Her current work is focused on a process of memory by applying traditional Japanese rice paste resist and dyeing techniques including that of natural dyeing, extracting color from flower petals.

Lecture: Traces of Journey: Personal Expression Through Fiber

Akemi Cohn's slide lecture will show the development of her art-making processes. Her ideas and inspiration come from her natural environment including flowers, plants, and animals.

Two Day Workshop- Indigo Shibori and Natural Dyes

The workshop explores natural dyes and the various shades of indigo blues with Shibori techniques. You will be presented with visual resources and samples, and some of the history of techniques.

Cynthia Boudreau, March 1-3, 2016

Cynthia Boudreau is a fiber enthusiast who loves creating beautiful fabric using shibori dyeing and nuno felting techniques. Her work includes one of a kind clothing sewn from her own designs along with two and three dimensional art pieces created by felting. She holds degrees from 3 universities, and her work has been shown in several Midwest area galleries and in Art Wear Fashion Show winning numerous awards.

Lecture- Joyful Play with Wool and Silk

This lecture will reveal the beauty of felting, shibori dyeing, and nuno felting.

Two Day Workshop- Creating a Felted Hat or Vessel, and Creating a Nuno Shawl

For the first day of the workshop, you will choose whether to create a cloche hat or vessel. On the second day, "Creating a Nuno Shawl," participants will design their own shape of shawl by creating a pattern. The piece will be shibori dyed, and then nuno felted to complete a beautiful unique shawl.

Rosalie Dace, April 5-7, 2016

Rosalie Dace is passionate about design, color, pattern, and texture. She enjoys looking at, feeling, and working with fabric and other textiles. She has a life-long interest in textiles and embroidery, and a degree in English and Art. Her home is in Durban, South Africa. She is a full time quilter who values traditional, while believing a quilt should say something about its time and place in history. She has exhibited in many prestigious shows, exhibitions and galleries and won several awards. She has been involved in embroidery training programs for Zulu women, and in teaching patchwork and quilting to residents of a nursing home.

Lecture- Eye to Eye

In Rosalie's lecture you will find your own Inner Artist. Discover how artists' eyes interpret and present their work. A visual feast of paintings, drawings, and other works from celebrated artists including Klee, Kandinsky, Matisse, Klimt, Hunderwasser, and several old masters, show us how we all use the same elements of design in our various works, be those paintings or traditional or contemporary quilts.

Two Day Workshop- Branching Out

In Rosalie's workshop you will discover the different shapes, patterns, lines, textures, colors and symbolism of trees while experimenting with design and composition. You will make a beautiful quilt top using foundation piecing, block making, and appliqué. The result will be a stunning, well-designed quilt top based on trees.

Carol Ann Waugh- May 3-5, 2016

Carol Ann Waugh has shown her fiber art in more than 50 national and international exhibitions. She is the author of five books on quilt-making and fiber art. Her newest one, *Stupendous Stitching*, was published in the Spring of 2012 and is now in its third printing.

Her art has been featured in many books and magazines and has appeared as the featured artist on numerous television quilt shows. She teaches classes online at craftsy.com, extending her student population to more than 35,000 students from around the world.

Lecture-How Did I Get Here from There?

Carol Ann's lecture will tell of her 7-year journey of transitioning from business consulting to full time studio fiber artist, and the lessons learned when moving from a left brain to right brain life. She will give you ideas about applying specific marketing and business tools to help you achieve your own short and long term artistic goals.

One Day Workshop- Stupendous Stitching

In Stupendous Stitching, you will make a piece of wall art combining couching, hand embroidery and decorative machine stitching on batik cotton fabric. This is the class you need to explore and use all those hundreds of "decorative stitches" included in your sewing machine. You will also learn how to finish the edges of your piece with rattail cord and learn the secrets of mounting your art on the wall.

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One Day Workshop - Self Portraits

This workshop will teach you how to create a self-portrait in fabric. You will learn how to create a face and transfer that drawing to a pattern. Select appropriate fabrics and construct a portrait that can be taken home for final finishing. No particular skills are required other than the ability to let loose your imagination and have fun. By the end of the day, you will have broken out of your barriers and will approach future compositions with a new found confidence and freedom to play, create, and be as original as you are—in your artwork and in life!

Mini Workshops/Summer Picnic

Please join us for our last mini workshop of the year in April. Stana Coleman will be teaching ribbon-work. You will need to bring a 5/8 inch wide ribbon 5 yards long, scissors, pins and a surface to work on like a macrame board or cork board. A display board of the project was shown at the March meeting. The fee is \$10.

Are you ready for the summer yet? This year's picnic will be held on Tuesday, July 14th at 11:00 and we will be welcoming Sue Jacobs, a certified zentangle teacher. The fee will be \$10 and will include your supplies needed for this zentangle drawing class. Lunch is provided by the guild so all you need to bring is yourself! Please join us indoors and learn this meditative, fun art form.

Do you have a talent you would like to share with the guild? Please contact me or talk to me at a meeting so we can get you on the schedule for next year.

To sign up for this workshop, or if you have any questions about it, please contact me at djpotter3@comcast.net, or 847-550-9322.

Donna Koranek

Made in Madagascar

Last July, my husband (Simon), son (Matthew) and I travelled to the south of Madagascar to work with the Anglican Bishop and his wife amongst the people of Toliara. See

<http://babbsandbaobabs.blogspot.com/>

Madagascar is one of the poorest countries of the world. Amongst other things, Matthew and I worked with 50 women to make 18 banners for various churches around the Diocese. We taught them to use the new, Diocesan sewing machine and iron. Of course, one group fused the fabric to the iron. I was glad to have taken iron cleaner with me!

Simon and I are returning this July, when I will be working with some of the women to try to develop a cottage industry for them to try to sell through a Fair Trade organization www.amaniafrica.org

Meanwhile, I have two boxes of crafts to sell. All made by the local people, many of whose stories I can tell you. Lucia is selling her jewelry and cards to keep her out of prostitution, and to buy a mattress for her and her young daughter to sleep on, instead of the mud floor. When we met her, she was desperate for work, and is much happier and healthier now that the Diocese are helping her find work. Olivia and Alfred are selling their items to raise the money to re-build the fourth wall of his house. Some of the people are highly skilled at hand embroidery, others are learning to make things.

I invite you to come to see their bags, purses, bookmarks, beads etc. on the Service Table in April, and buy something to support these very needy people.

Sue Babbs

Local Exhibit

The Northwest Cultural Council is planning a combined exhibit of several of its Corporate Gallery Artists. This encompasses fiberart, painting, mixed media, 3-dimensional works, many other media, and our poetry winners. It runs from April 7 through July 7. It is at the Arlington Green Executive center at 2101 Arlington Heights Road, Arlington Heights. I will have pieces in this exhibit.

Valerie Rodelli

Service Update

It was touching that so many of you took kits, material to cut, and took lap quilts to finish last month. Jeanette did not have to take any home! You are the most generous women, giving up your time to help others. Thank you. And as always we have more to do. We will have kits available to make premie quilts, lap quilts and pillowcases. You can take material to cut strips and 6" or 8" squares, and also make crocheted blankets. We always accept flannel, cottons, denim and fleece for our ongoing projects.

The Freebie table will be open for those who are spring cleaning already.

Our Service days will be held at Jeanette Page's home on April 7th and 28th from 9:30- 12:30. Please call Jeanette at 847 564-1057 if you plan to join us.

A very special opportunity to help Project Linus and women of Madagascar. Items will be for sale made by Project Linus, who share material with us, and items from Madagascar (see Sue Babbs' article on p. 6. Bring your cash or checkbook!

International Quilt Auction Donations needed

Saturday, October 24, 2015, 9 AM to 3 PM. Auction begins at 11 AM. Glenview Community Church, 2000 Elm St., Glenview, IL.

Quilters, grab your needles and thread to help fight hunger. Become part of the circle of hope by donating a quilt to our sixth Heifer International Quilt Auction.

People from all over the country are being asked to donate quilts—new quilts, old quilts, antique and Amish quilts, art quilts, large and small, machine and hand quilted. If you would like to help, please donate quilts or crafts or sponsor a quilt to see your monetary gift increase in value. Quilts donated to the auction must be received by September 15, 2015.

For more information contact:

Audrey Veath, 815-347-2516

Beryl Bills at berylbills@comcast.net

Beth Gunzel, Community Engagement Coordinator
312-340-8866 or Beth.Gunzel@heifer.org

Picture, picture in the book, Do you need your picture took?

Having pictures of all our members helps us to get better acquainted. You will be receiving your 2015-2016 dues renewal notice at the April meeting. Some of you will also have a reminder at the top requesting a picture for our Membership Book. If you want to send a snapshot (jpg please) via my email address, jcnpeanuts@yahoo.com please feel free to do so. You can also stop at the sign-in table and let me know that you're interested in having your picture taken. The third option is to send a snapshot via snail mail to my home (address in the book). I will return the snapshot at a future meeting. During the summer I will be working on the Directory, and the pictures would be helpful for us to get to know you better.

Members who already have pictures in the Directory are welcome to change them via the above options.

Joan Nasiatka/Membership

2015-16 Board Nominations

The 2015 nominating committee respectfully submits the 2015 slate of officers:

First vice president - Cindy Heineman

Second vice president - Gretchen Alexander

Secretary - Janet Sumner

Meeting Facilitator - Jan Swimmer

Workshop Registrar - Sylvia Dresser

Hospitality - Arlene Winkle

Special events (aka hospitality-guild) - Julie Rivera

Publicity - Cathy Baillet

Nominations from the floor and elections will be held at the May Annual Meeting.

The following positions have been appointed by the president:

Treasurer - Sandra Geis

Mini workshops - Donna Koranek

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Polonsky

Cindy Heineman

Linda Iser

Workshops

Only two more workshops to go, and it is almost time to sign up for a new season! The April and May workshops are full, but you can still put your name on the waiting list. The new workshop registration sheets will be distributed at the April 14th guild meeting with sign-up at the May 5th meeting. Remember that your 2015-16 dues must be paid before registering for next year's workshops. Sylvia Dresser will be the new Workshop Registrar, but I will be taking sign ups through May 19. Please e-mail me if you have questions.

Barbara Fry

Thank you...

...to Carol Jakimow of North Shore Needleworks for her donation of embroidery threads to the group participating in Laura Wasilowski's recent workshop. North Shore Needleworks is located at 1512 Shermer Rd. Unit C, Northbrook, IL 60062, 847-291-6550, northshoreneedleworks.com. They have a fantastic selection of needlepoint products, and many wonderful threads, including both silk and cotton.

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