

# Loose Ends & Gathered Threads

Newsletter of the North Suburban NeedleArts Guild  
March 2015

*Be yourself; everyone else is already taken.~Oscar Wilde*

## Val's Musings

TIME, TIME, TIME! We never seem to have enough of it. Why does it go so fast? When I was a small child, my mother used to say that the older you get, the faster time goes. I didn't pay too much attention to that at that time. She was right. There are many theories as to why we feel that way: younger minds are more uncluttered; your remaining time here is less percentage of your total life. All I know is that the priorities of how I will spend my time have become much more important to me. What do I want to do/accomplish, with whom do I want to spend time, and other questions like this. I guard my time more than ever before.

I hope you will choose to spend some of your time with a guild activity. There are still a few workshop openings, a mini workshop, a pot-luck in May, and the camaraderie of friends at meetings.

SALE, SALE, SALE! In the month of March there is a special activity and opportunity for us. Many members will be selling their treasures and gently used items. Remember, "One man's trash is another man's treasure." Please see all the details in the report on mini-workshops. There are some changes. There will be beautiful things to purchase and great bargains also.

The survey for the general membership is ready for prime time. There will be copies handed out at the next meeting on March, 4. Please take a moment to fill it out, sign, and return it. It is just an information-gathering tool. We have many new members and would like to know more about them. We do this every few years. No information on it is binding for you. You can give it to one of the board members at one of the greeting tables at the front. There will also be a link sent to you by the newsletter editor, Mary McManus, if you would like to print your own copy and have it ready for the meeting. Thanks to all of you for doing this.

Valerie

## CALENDAR

**Tues. March 3 9 - 9:30 am** Socializing, sign up for workshops. Members' Sale. At Gloria Dei, Cherry and Pflugsten in Northbrook

**9:30 am Laura Wasilowski Lecture and Trunk Show.**

Chicago School of Fusing, guided tour

**After the meeting continuation of Members' Sale**

**Tues afternoon, Half Day workshop: Laura Wasilowski,**  
Tiny Homes.

**Wed-Thurs, March 4-5 9:30 am, Workshop with Laura Wasilowski** Couching Thread, Hidden Needle, at Gloria Dei

**Tues. Marh 17, 10 am. Board meeting at Gloria Dei**

**Thurs. March 19 noon.** Deadline for April newsletter.

**Tues. March 24, Service projects, Jeanette Page's,** see p. 5

**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.

Advertising rates:

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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## Laura Wasilowski, Mar. 3 - 5, 2015

<http://artfabrik.com>

Laura Wasilowski is a contemporary quilt maker and creator of hand-dyed fabrics and threads. Her pictorial art quilts (created from fused fabrics and then hand-embroidered or machine quilted) are collected and exhibited internationally. The whimsical wall pieces often chronicle her life.

Owner of the dye shop, Artfabrik, Laura is also a lecturer, surface designer, quilt instructor, pattern designer, and author of *Fusing Fun*, *Fuse-and-Tell*, and her latest book: *Fanciful Stitches, Colorful Quilts*.

### Lecture & Trunk Show:

#### Chicago School of Fusing - Guided Tour

Take a campus tour of the famous Chicago School of Fusing. This mythical university is devoted to the promotion of the fine art of fusing, a non-traditional method of assembling quilts with fusible web. Laura Wasilowski, Dean of Corrections at the School, guides you around the campus buildings, introduces you to the fascinating fusing curriculum, and shows you the exciting campus life of the student fuser.

#### Tuesday ½ Day Workshop: Tiny Homes

Create a little house quilt and receive a degree in Architecture from the Chicago School of Fusing at the same time!

Explore fusing: free cutting, layering, collage building, improvisational design, and more. The result is a whimsical neighborhood placed in a colorful landscape setting and made from a kit of pre-fused beautifully hand-dyed fabrics.

(No sewing machine is needed.)

#### Wednesday & Thursday Workshop: Couching Thread, Hidden Needle

A well placed embroidery stitch brings a quilt to life. It lends the quilt surface color, pattern, definition, and texture.

You'll create several small art quilts while learning an improvisational method of construction with fused fabrics. These fused quilts act as your canvas for hand stitchery and take your work from flat to fabulous!

With the emphasis on basic embroidery stitches like running, seed, French knots, and lazy daisy, students will also learn more complex hand stitches, stitch combinations, and stitch variations. Learn about embroidery stitch choices, placement, and inventing new stitch ideas.

(No sewing machine needed!)

## 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.

### 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.

## Workshops

We are down to our last 3 months. The March 3 half-day workshop and the April and May ones are full, but you can still add your name to the waiting lists. The March 4-5 workshop still has openings. Check the supply lists on our website then contact me if you are interested in any of these.

Barbara Fry  
9731 N Fox Glen Drive #4J  
Niles, IL 60714

## 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](http://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 starting Tuesday 5th at 1pm: 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 selvedges 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.

## Catching up with Electric Quilt

If you are a quilter, you probably already know about Electric Quilt (EQ), a quilt design program which has gotten progressively better over the years. It contains hundreds of traditional blocks and also the software to help you design your own blocks, including applique. After learning the basics of the program, it is even possible to design an art quilt from scratch. You can import scan of your own fabrics to audition them in your quilt. Or try out various color combinations to see what they will look like without ever cutting into fabric. One of the best things about EQ is its outstanding product support, which is always ready to help you solve a problem.

Many of you who use Windows have enjoyed Electric Quilt for a long time. I have had every version since the very first one, and when I made the switch from PC to Mac, went through the hassle of installing Parallels on my Mac so that I could continue to use EQ in a virtual Windows. However, in some ways using it that way was clunky, and there were often issues in printing, etc. Also there was the additional expense of the Parallels program, plus having to buy a full copy of Windows. All this changed last year when EQ came out with a version for Mac. I paid \$24.95 for a migration kit which I downloaded, and now EQ7 works flawlessly on my Mac. If you have EQ7 for Windows, and switched to a Mac, you might want to try this, or for those who do not have the program at all, there is a full Mac version, either on disk or downloadable. The website is [www.electricquilt.com](http://www.electricquilt.com).

## Mini Workshops

Thank you Beth Polonsky for teaching our needle felted pin last month. I'd love to see the participants wearing their pins at our March meeting.

We have had an overwhelming response from members wanting to participate in our member sale. As a result, and also due in part to the 2-1/2 day workshop, we will be holding the sale in the room across the hall. Due to space constraints, participants will be limited to one half of an 8 foot table. Set up can begin at 8:30 with the sale starting at 9:00. We will need to be packed up by 12:30, so depending on the length of the meeting, more shopping opportunities may be available after the meeting. Since we will be across the hall, you will not need to bring a cover for your table, but shopping will still be closed during the meeting.

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 will be available at the March meeting. The fee is \$10.

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 or the member sale, please contact me at [djpotter3@comcast.net](mailto:djpotter3@comcast.net), or 847-550-9322.

Donna Koranek

## Service Update

We provide many opportunities to help others at NSNG. We have been busy preparing lap quilt kits for Winchester House Nursing Center. At the March meeting we will have quilts to bring home to sew, material to cut into strips or squares, and quilts to tie. We have pillowcase, baby quilts, tote bags and crocheted-edged fleece blankets as well. Just pick up a kit, bring it home and return it when finished!

Our next Service day is March 24th, from 9:30-12:30 at Jeanette Page's home, 2339 Dehne Rd. Northbrook. Please call Jeanette at 847 564-1057 if you are planning to attend.

*Please save your Freebie goods for the April meeting due to the Member's sale.*

## Barbara Schneider

Two of Barbara Schneider's art pieces, Leaf Fragments, var. 1 and Linden Leaf Rag, are included in the following art exhibit at the Vero Beach Art Museum. Barbara hopes to go to Florida in April to see the exhibit.

Embracing Space & Color: Art On & Off the Wall, February 20 - June 7, 2015

Robert Rauschenberg once described his working method as "a collaboration with materials." By creating works of art that literally combined the qualities of painting and sculpture, he permanently altered the definitions of both. Today, artists feel free to operate in the "gap between art and life" that Rauschenberg famously staked out as his territory. Utilizing a blend of traditional and non-traditional media and materials, from textiles and everyday objects to pigment on various kinds of fiber, the artists represented in Embracing Space and Color create sculptural works of art that incorporate elements of painting, especially in their use of color, but are not confined to two dimensions. Among the artists whose works of art will be mounted on the walls and ceiling of the Holmes gallery are El Anatsui, Devorah Sperber, Anne Boudreau, Ralph Helmick, Barbara Schneider and Olga de Amaral.

[http://www.verobeachmuseum.org/index.cfm?method=Exhibitions\\_detail&ID=272](http://www.verobeachmuseum.org/index.cfm?method=Exhibitions_detail&ID=272)

## **Cindy Kuo is our new Webmaster!**

Many thanks to Cindy for agreeing to do this. As you may or may not know, Cindy is webmaster for The Fine Art of Fiber and Women's Journeys in Fiber. Our revised website, when it is done, will have a whole new look. In the meantime, it is sort of frozen in time, so nothing new is likely to be added, and newsletter links will be from Dropbox. You can still pick up current forms on there, such as workshop registration and supply lists. If you have any questions about the newsletter or about any forms, please contact Mary McManus. See the board listing on p. 2 for my e-mail address. Barbara Fry, our workshop registrar, can provide you with a later version of the supply list for Sherill Kahn's April workshop in colored pencil techniques.

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