

# Loose Ends & Gathered Threads

Newsletter of the North Suburban NeedleArts Guild  
May 2015

*Celebrate each season, for you too, are transformed with the turns of the earth. Arthur Dobrin*

## Val's Musings

As I write this newsletter blurb, it is cold once again. But I know that it really is Spring with the trees leafing out and more daylight to be enjoyed. Like the psalm/song says "a time for all seasons", our guild is heading in to another season also. We have almost come to the end of another creative year. There is one more great workshop to come in May. The knitters are eagerly looking forward to learning some very professional knitting techniques.

This year we have stamped/rubbed, fused, quilted, made books, beaded, and knitted. There were also some very interesting mini-workshops, wonderful lectures, opportunities to buy members' items, a Fiber Show, and, of course, some parties and food.

BUT WAIT! It's not over yet. We still have a pot luck lunch along with a program for the May meeting, and a Summer picnic with an interesting project to learn....Zentangles! The guild provides the food for this event (see details on p. 7). When looking back on the guild year like this, I realize just how much is offered to members each year.

We have unveiled our programs for next year and will present them again at the last meeting in May. You can sign up for them (dues also due) at the meeting. They are on a first-come, first-served basis. Forms are available online at our *new* website, NSNG.org

Summer is usually a time to relax and kick back a bit. A time to enjoy some other activities, vacation, or do whatever it is you like to do. It is also a time to rejuvenate and nurture your creative spirit. Annual Project titled "Garden Pathways" is around the corner come Fall.

I wish you all a safe and wonderful Summer and hope your muse thrives and goes into its own "season."

Valerie

## CALENDAR

**Tues. May 5 9 - 9:30 am** Socializing, sign up for workshops. At Gloria Dei, Cherry and Pflugsten in Northbrook

**9:30 am Lecture and trunk show by Catherine Lowe:**  
Couture Knitting

**Potluck immediately following meeting, see p. 8**

**Tues afternoon**

**Begin 2-1/2 day workshop Catherine Lowe, The Basic Techniques of Couture Knitting**

**Wed-Thurs, May 6-7 9:30 am, continuation of Workshop with Catherine Lowe at Gloria Dei**

**Tues. May 12 9:30 Service Projects at Jeanette Page's, see p. 7**

**Tues. May 19 10 am Crossover Board meeting at Gloria Dei.** Current board plus new board members

**Tues. May 26 9:30 Service Projects at Jeanette Page's, see p. 7**

**Tues. July 14 11 am Summer Picnic** with Sue Jacobs teaching class in Zentangle. See p. 7

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## 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.

## Workshops

The new season of workshops has now been announced, bringing opportunities to learn something new or build on existing skills. Be sure your dues are paid for the coming year. Sign up for workshops begins at the May 5 guild meeting. You can read about them on our new website and check out the supply lists. The website also includes the registration form if you need one. I will be taking registrations until May 19, then Sylvia Dresser will take over. I have really enjoyed my job for the past few years, especially getting to know so many of you! I will miss it, but will still be a guild member. Hope to see you at the May meeting.

Barbara Fry

Workshop Registrar

## Lace Day

The Lacemakers and Collectors Exchange invite you to Lace Day, June 13, 2015, 10 am to 3:30 pm at the American Legion Hall, 4000 Saratoga Ave., Downers Grove, IL 60515. For information on classes and more, see:

<http://www.lacemakersofillinois.org/Lace%20Day%202015.htm>

## 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.

### **October 6-8, 2015**

Please check the new web page at NSNG.org regarding the October workshop and lecture, which should be available shortly. We are working with a new teacher in the area of metals and jewelry. Come to the May meeting, where we expect to give a full presentation.

### **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 prerequisite 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.

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.

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continued from p. 4

### **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 quiltermaker 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](http://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.

#### 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!

## Made in Madagascar

Many thanks to everyone who bought crafts made by the people of Toliara, Madagascar at last month's meeting. I am thrilled with how much went! Our wonderful guild members bought \$238 worth of crafts, and a donation of \$200 was made. This is tremendous! And on top of that, I have bags and bags of thread, fabric, beads, buttons to take out with us this summer. The women will be so excited to see all these supplies for them to stitch with. Thank you all.

The people are experts at using every scrap. Last year, the waste white fabric was used to make tiny soccer balls, stuffed with the paper backing from the Wonder-Under, and the young girls stitched the colored fabric trimmings into purses.

Cindy Kuo will be accepting any further supplies on my behalf at the May meeting. If you have any of the following which you no longer want, we would be most pleased to take them with us:

- Seed beads
- Beading needles and thread
- Embroidery (#1 & #3) needles
- Reading glasses +1.50 magnification & stronger
- Cotton stranded embroidery floss
- Cotton perle thread
- Buttons to act as closure on beaded & embroidered cuff bracelets
- Crochet hooks (sizes D to K)

Sue Babbs

## Fine Art of Fiber

Its time to start thinking about the Fine Art of Fiber and about all the wonderful things you will be creating for the show. We have made some changes to the raffle and silent auction that you should know.

We will not have a raffle this year; although, the other guilds will continue with theirs. We never made that much money on the raffle, and we felt we would do better concentrating our attention on the silent auction where we do make money.

And there is an important small change to the silent auction as well. Starting this year, we will no longer refuse to sell an item at the buy-it-now price just because it already has one bid on it. Many people are willing to pay full price but don't want to wait around until the afternoon to collect their prize. They pass on the item, and it later sells for the lower bid price. So if you see something you really, really want, buy it now.

And for those of you who fill out the silent auction paperwork and set the price, we now reserve the right to change that price if we feel your item is under valued.

So, please write the following dates on your calendar. This is your show, and we want to see you and your art.

Opening Night is November 5, 2015 and the show is November 6 thru November 8, 2015.

Exhibit and Boutique entries are due Friday, September 11, 2015.

***Have you seen our NEW website,  
[www.nsng.org](http://www.nsng.org)?***

## Mini Workshops Summer Picnic July 14th

Special thanks to Stana Coleman for teaching our last mini workshop for the season on ribbon work, your talents are appreciated!

Please join us for this year's picnic which will be held on Tuesday, July 14th at 11:00 at Glorio Dei. We will be welcoming Sue Jacobs, a certified zentangle teacher. The fee will be \$10 (checks made payable to NSNG) and will include your supplies needed for this zentangle drawing class which runs approximately 2 hours. Sue will also have additional supplies you may purchase separately. Drinks and lunch are provided by the guild but you may bring a salad or dessert. I hope you can gather with us indoors to learn this meditative, fun art form. Sign up at the May meeting or contact me at [djpotter3@comcast.net](mailto:djpotter3@comcast.net), or 847-550-9322.

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.

Donna Koranek

## Pat Kroth - Upcoming Exhibition

3 Degrees of Abstraction with Works by Shelley Brenner Baird, Pat Kroth and Karen Rips.

Visions Art Museum Of Quilts and Textiles

2825 Dewey Road, Suite 100

San Diego, CA 92106

619-546-4872

April 18-July 5, 2015

<http://www.visionsartmuseum.org/>

## Membership: Address Changes We Need Pictures!

If over the summer you have any address changes like a move to a new location, new email address or add a website, please try to send those changes to me before August 1, 2015. After that date I cannot guarantee that it will be in the 2015-2016 Membership Directory. You can snail mail (use address in the current Directory) or email [jcnpeanuts@yahoo.com](mailto:jcnpeanuts@yahoo.com) this info to me.

Pictures – It would be much appreciated if those of you who do not have a picture in the Membership Directory would send me one so that our directory will be up-to-date. Current members with pictures can send a new one if they want to change what we have on file. Deadline is August 1, 2015. Thanks.

Joan Nasiatka/Membership

## Service

Thank you so much for all you have done this year to make such a difference in our community. We have been very productive in helping others and we appreciate your time, talents, and donations. We will have kits available to take home to work on over the summer—pillowcases, preemie blankets, crochet-edged blankets, tote bags, and lap quilts. We also plan to meet this summer at Jeanette Page's home located at 2339 Dehne Rd. in Northbrook on May 12th and 26 from 9:30-12:30. We will meet 2 Tuesdays in June, July and August. We encourage you to call Jeanette at 847 564-1057 if you plan to join us. At the May meeting, we will let you know the dates we plan to work. Please come!

The Freebie table will be open at the May meeting, so bring your goodies to share.

Nancy Calandra and Jeanette Page

## **Potluck (Hats Optional) Luncheon after May Meeting**

Our potluck luncheon will be immediately following our May meeting. Please bring a favorite dish to share. Coffee, soft drinks and water will be provided.

If you are inclined to wearing hats, please do. You can dress up or dress down. Hats are *not* required. Personally I am not a hat person, but I sure do love to see the wonderful hats that my fellow members wear.

Come and enjoy good food and conversation with our fellow guild members at our year end meeting.

Julie Rivera

*Have you seen our NEW website,  
[www.nsng.org](http://www.nsng.org)?*

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**First Class Mail**