

Loose Ends & Gathered Threads

Newsletter of the North Suburban NeedleArts Guild
November 2015

*Whatever you do, or dream you can, begin it.
Boldness has genius and power and magic in it. ~ Goethe*

Val's Musings

It's obvious that Fall is in the air. You can see it, smell it, and feel it. It is my favorite time of the year, as I try to embrace change and love all of the colors displayed by nature. Walking around, driving around or biking around all show us the changes with vivid colors.

This love of color, and the season, also reminds me of when I got my new crayons in the Fall for the start of the school year. I loved the look, feel, and even the smell of the new crayons. I vacillated between wanting to use them right away or keeping them nice and sharp in the box. The colors fascinated me. I would pull them out and read the descriptive names on each one...all 24 of them. Yes, I know that there are now about 128 in the jumbo box, but who's counting.

Color is an important art principle. There are books and dvds that try to explain it to us and it evokes many responses within us. Why do some colors attract us? Why do we like some colors more than others? Do we associate some colors to an event? a culture? history? a holiday? Probably all of the above could apply to how we feel when we view a particular color.

We respond automatically to some colors and scientists have tried to explain this phenomenon. Often red is energizing or angry, blue could be soothing or sad, yellow could be happiness, green could be natural and calming, orange can draw attention, and darker colors can be sad or forbidding.

Fabrics, beads, yarn, thread, paper, and paints all come in a myriad of colors. Then there are the hues, shades, tints, and tones of each color. There is color mixing for an individual palette. So there is no end to our color "choices."

For art's sake, why not try a palette that you don't usually use. It doesn't matter what your medium might be. It might turn out to be your new favorite or at least a spark to your usual palette. Right now I'm in a neutral phase in some of my work. It's challenging and informative to me, hopefully making me grow a bit in my art. But when I think of that
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CALENDAR

Tues. Nov. 3 10:00 Service Projects at Jeanette Page's, see p. 5

Thursday, Nov. 5 (6:30-9 PM) Opening Night Fine Art of Fiber at Chicago Botanic Garden

Friday – Sunday, Nov. 6-8 (10-5) Fine Art of Fiber

Tues. Nov. 10, 9 - 9:30 am Socializing, sign up for workshops. At Gloria Dei, Cherry and Pfingsten in Northbrook

9:30 am Lecture: Kat Wisniewski, Selling your Art Online

Tues afternoon Workshop, Kat Wisniewski, Bold and Byzantine Bracelet

Tues. Nov. 17 10:00 Board meeting at Gloria Dei

Tues. Nov 24 10:00 Service Projects at Jeanette Page's, see p. 5

Tues. Dec. 1 Holiday Party

Tues. Dec. 8 10:00 Service Projects at Jeanette Page's, see p. 5

Thurs. Dec. 10 NOON Deadline for January newsletter

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crayon box, I realize that I used all of those luscious colors...all 24 of them. So I think I'm going out to get the new box of crayons (colors) and see how many more I can use to improve my art. I think it will be the biggest box of crayons I can find!

Happy holidays to all of you! This is our last newsletter for this year, but will see you at the holiday party on December 1, with your annual project.

Valerie

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

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

Mary McManus, ed.

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Kat Wisniewski- Nov. 10, 2015

In 2005, Kat Wisniewski established Elemental Art Jewelry with the goal of bringing distinctive hand-made 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. Her art is also affected with thoughts of the machinery in industrial and factory buildings, combined with her desire to create 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.". As of 2014, she has published 16 projects, invented 20 weaving patterns, and has been teaching chainmaille and wirework for 10 years. Though based in Chicago, Kat has become a nationally known expert in the field of chainmaille, and glass chainmaille designs.

She displays her work throughout the Chicagoland area at artisan shows and retail locations. Kat is also a member of The Artisan Group, a national and widely known celebrity gifting organization for handmade goods.

Lecture: Selling Your Art Online

Have you been making art and wonder how to begin selling it? Or maybe you've been selling your art online, but with minimal success? Then Kat's lecture is for you!

She will cover so many topics including:

- *pricing your art for profit

- *selling on Etsy

- *starting your own website

- *professional packaging and shipping your art all over the world

- *how to accept credit card payments online

- *the secrets of great art photography on a budget

1/2 Day Workshop Tuesday afternoon

Bold and Byzantine Bracelet:

In the afternoon, take advantage of Kat's lively teaching style, and great demonstrations, and leave completely addicted to chain maille.

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. Jan earned her BFA at the University of Illinois. Her continuing education includes many guild workshops, studies at the Art Institute of Chicago, the University of Minnesota Split Rock and, Shakerag in Tennessee where she studied with Joanna Berzowska and Leah Buechley.

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. Jan's work reflects her interest in art, science, and connecting things and people. Several of her pieces for that group have incorporated electronic solutions.

Lecture: Conductivity and Creativity

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

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.

Fine Art of Fiber

Wednesday, Nov. 4 (6:30-8 PM) Boutique setup

Thursday, Nov. 5 (8:30 AM on) more Boutique setup,

Thursday, Nov. 5 (9:00 – 10:00) Deliver exhibits

Thursday, Nov. 5 (9:00 on) Exhibit set up

Thursday, Nov. 5 (6:30-9 PM) Opening Night

Friday – Sunday, Nov. 6-8 (10-5) Show, Sales, Lectures

Come and enjoy the show. There's a lot more information in our Membership Directory and Handbook (the red book) if you have questions. And check out the Fine Art of Fiber web site (www.fineartoffiber.org) for silent auction, boutique and fashion show forms as well as pictures from past shows. You can also send your friends and family the link for the Garden's web site (www.chicagobotanic.org/fiber) . It has all the show times and special events.

November meeting and workshop reminder

Don't forget that our meeting in November is not going to be on the first Tuesday, and because of the Fine Art of Fiber, will be on the 10th.

For those of you taking the chainmaille class, make sure to dip your pliers two times with Tool Magic, that's available at Jo-Ann Fabrics and other craft stores, drying them at least two hours between each dip before the class.

Cindy Heineman

Mini Workshops

Mini workshops for the year start in January with a resin workshop with Cindy Heineman and Sheila Schaeffer-Hirsh. We will be filling bezels with resin, (bezels and resin provided) and Cindy has given me a list of suggestions for things you might like to include in your pieces: stamps, very small toys, small bits of yarn and thread, small screws, nuts, bolts, interesting papers, buttons, stones, paper clips, small keys, glitter, seeds, spices, acrylic paints, dead insects, papers, cloth, beads, gears, watch parts, stones, small springs, etc. You should also bring pencils, small scissors, rulers, templates to cut shapes if you have any, and small pictures which can be from magazines, or photos. Start saving bottle caps; they make good bezels too. Your instructors will have some things too, so no worries.

Everyone should bring a plastic garbage bag to use to protect the tables to use under the projects, and box tops to carry your pieces home with you. The resin will not be hardened before class is over. If you have a small incandescent lamp, bring it with you too, as it accelerates the hardening process. The class is limited to 20 people with a \$15 fee. Please join us!

February brings Marcey Pomerantz teaching kan-zashi, Japanese fabric folding, and in April Susan Kenyon will teach a crochet project. I will have sign up sheets for all classes at our next meeting. I can also take your payments at the time of sign up, checks should be made out to the class instructor. I can also be reached by email djpotter3@comcast.net or phone 847-550-9322 for sign ups or ideas for future classes.

Donna Koranek

Participant agreement forms

For the 2015-16 guild year, the board has approved the use of a Participant Agreement Form, sometimes also called a release form or a waiver. In today's world, you have probably signed one or more of these—at the gym, for a Park District program, or if you have registered a child for any activity.

Our form is a simple one, designed to remind us that many of the activities we engage in do have some inherent risk involved—we use sharp tools, hot irons, and so on. Your signature is an acknowledgement that you accept these risks, and absolve the Guild from any responsibility if you injure yourself.

For this year, you will be asked to sign a form when you take a workshop, a mini-workshop, or participate in a service gathering. Next year, the form will become part of the membership process.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact Sylvia Dresser at 847-945-6095, or sylviadresser@gmail.com.

Local area exhibit

The Spirituality of Color: an exhibit of paintings, ceramic sculpture, fiber art, photography and poetry, curated by Judith Joseph, will feature works by two of our NSNG members, **Phyllis Woloshin** and **Sylvia Dresser**. This exhibit resulted from the Artists Beit Midrash, a course of text study and art discussion at North Suburban Synagogue Beth El with support from the Gertrude Lederman Family Continuing Education program. The class was taught by artist Judith Joseph and Jane Shapiro, faculty.

The show will be at the Arthur Feldman Gallery, 465 Roger Williams Ave., Highland Park, from Nov. 11 through Dec. 30, 2015. There will be an opening reception Nov. 11 from 5 – 7 pm. Then, the show moves to the Rissman Family Kol Ami Museum at North Suburban Synagogue Beth El, 1175 Sheridan Road, Highland Park, from January 7 through April 3, 2016, with an opening reception on January 16. For more information, exhibit hours, and to RSVP for the above events, contact Marcie Eskin at meskin@nssbethel.org or 847-926-7903.

Workshop Registrations

If you registered for a workshop in the spring, you probably paid only the deposit amount. I will be sending out reminders of the remaining amounts due—please watch for an email, as the easiest way for me to remind you. You may bring a check to the November meeting, or mail it to me.

There are spaces remaining in several of our workshops for the 2015-2016 year. Please check the workshop listings on our website to see if the one you are interested in is full or not!

I will be taking registrations via regular mail, and also at our monthly meetings. If you want to register at the meeting, please be prepared to wait until I can check your registration and make sure there is still space in the class you are interested in.

If you would like to be added to a waiting list, you may notify me via email or at the meeting. If you are notifying me at the meeting, please fill out a registration form (on the registration table) and note which waiting list you would like your name added to.

If you are signed up for a workshop, you will hear from me via email and regular mail a few weeks in advance of the workshop. If at any time you find your schedule has changed, and you need to cancel, please notify me via email or phone as soon as possible, as many of our workshops have waiting lists.

Workshops that still have spaces available are: November (Kat Wisniewski), January (Jan Gerber), and May 5 (Carol Ann Waugh).

Our workshops are wonderful learning opportunities, and a great chance to get to know other guild members – hope you can join us at some point!

Sylvia Dresser, Workshop registrar
847-945-6095 or sylviaadresser@gmail.com

Holiday Pot Luck Party and Annual Project Tuesday, December 1st

Don't miss our annual Holiday Party and Annual Project, Tuesday, December 1st at Gloria Dei, from 10:30am - 3:00pm. Bring your favorite dish to share. The guild will provide coffee, tea and soft drinks.

10:30 Drop off your annual project for display

11-noon Voting for the Annual Project

11-12:30 Lunch

12-12:30 Votes counted and winners announced

12:30-3 Grab bag exchange

After lunch is the always entertaining grab bag. Please note there will **not** be a White Elephant Exchange this year. The gift exchange will be conducted through a Yankee Swap. Please wrap in gift bags or boxes for faster opening. (\$15-\$20 approximate value)—hopefully needlework related, sometimes only vaguely. The gift exchange is optional!

This is a great occasion to mingle with fellow guild members and vote for your favorite Annual Project. Come meet new members and hang out with old friends all while enjoying wonderful food and guaranteed laughs. Please join us in celebrating the holiday season.

Julie Rivera

Service

* Thank you for your generosity!

* We are in need of baby yarn, fleece, flannel and denim.

* When shopping for Christmas fabric, consider purchasing an extra yard for pillowcases for the YWCA.

* We collect cards (sent to you by charities) throughout the year for Veterans. Jeanette recently sent a boxful!

* Service Days at Jeanette's home located at 2339 Dehne Rd. in Northbrook will be held November 3 and 24 and also December 8 at 10:00 to sew, cut fabric, iron and complete projects.

Email Nancy at rjcnmc74@comcast.net if you plan to join us.

Annual Project

There is beauty to be found in every pathway of your life. "It is in your mind, your talents, the creativity you bring to your life and the lives of people you love." (Sophia Loren)

Whether you chose spring, summer, winter or fall, it is time to showcase your special "garden pathway" project through your entry in NSNG's annual threaded needle competition.

All projects will be displayed at the December holiday luncheon meeting where members will be able to vote for their favorite.

Don't forget the valuable rewards that await the winning entries:

1st place \$100 towards a 2016-2017 NSNG workshop

2nd place \$75 towards a 2016-2017 NSNG workshop

3rd place \$50 towards a 2016-2017 NSNG workshop

Marla Wolf

Silent Auction News

Thank you to all the members who have contributed so generously to this year's Silent Auction. Offerings this year include antique Asian textiles, baby items, hand dyed silk scarves, purses, knit scarves, wall hangings, table linens, jewelry, hats, pillows, books, clothing, and more. Stop by the Silent Auction table to place your bids on these wonderful treasures.

It's not too late to donate an item to the Silent Auction! Bring your items with you when you come to the Fine Art of Fiber show, and give them to the ladies staffing the Silent Auction table. All contributions will be gratefully received.

Thank you,
Gretchen Alexander

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