

# Loose Ends & Gathered Threads

Newsletter of the North Suburban NeedleArts Guild  
October 2015

*Natural abilities are like natural plants that need pruning by study. Francis Bacon*

## Val's Musings

CELEBRATE! This is a word that has been very relevant to me lately. There are many ways to celebrate and I feel that I'm doing them all right now. I'm celebrating the new guild year, as we are off to a great start with our first meeting this month. Then I'm celebrating the Fall season which is just around the corner (I think). It is my favorite time of the year. Colorful changes in nature, a chance to regroup a bit and resume certain activities, wear a different wardrobe for the weather, and eat all the comfort foods that come with the season.

I am also celebrating family. Those living out of town have appeared on my doorstep for a big family celebration for my husband. While I'm exhausted right now, I've decided that "celebrating" is a good thing. It gives one the opportunity to do and say joyful things. Sometimes I lose sight of the simple things that bring joy and satisfaction. Celebrating people, and the good in your life is energizing. I'm energized and I would like for all of you to be also. So, celebrate with the guild, make friends here, and exercise your creative streak. Let the celebration begin. Opportunities abound as we begin the new guild year.

ART IS THE CELEBRATION OF LIFE!

Valerie

## CALENDAR

**Tues. Oct. 6 9 - 9:30 am** Socializing, sign up for workshops. At Gloria Dei, Cherry and Pflingsten in Northbrook

**9:30 am Lecture: Julie Sandford, Creative Design.**  
**Tues afternoon Begin Julie Sandford workshop Stone on Stone**

**Wed-Thurs, Oct. 7-8 9:30 am, continuation of Stone on Stone Workshop** at Gloria Dei

**Tues. Oct. 13 10:00 Service Projects at Jeanette Page's, see p. 5**

**Tues. Oct. 20 10:00** Board meeting at Gloria Dei

**Thurs. Oct. 22 NOON** Newsletter deadline

**Tues. Oct. 27 10:00 Service Projects at Jeanette Page's, see p. 5**

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## Workshop Registrations

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: October (Julie Sanford), 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 sylviadresser@gmail.com

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## October 6 - 8 Julie Sandford

Julie Sanford has been creating and exhibiting silver art jewelry in the West Michigan area for over 25 years. Her education includes a Bachelor of Arts in Art Education from Western Michigan University, studies at The Kalamazoo Institute of Arts, Oxbow Summer Institute of the Chicago Institute of Arts and Kendall College of Art and Design and The Revere Academy of Jewelry Arts in San Francisco.

Julie's teaching experience includes teaching visual art in the classroom with an emphasis on curriculum integration, art history, ceramics and jewelry. Julie also has extensive experience leading jewelry related classes and workshops at national trade shows and conferences, technical schools, universities, private studios and galleries. Julie and her work are often featured in books, articles, trade magazines, news media and gallery exhibits. She has won numerous awards for her work in Jewelry and was the Grand Prize Winner of the Jewelry Design Challenge sponsored by Rio Grande Jewelry Supply and Lark Books.

Along with a successful jewelry design business, Julie is also the director of Studio JSD, metalsmithing workshop, makerspace and gallery in Grand Haven Michigan, and serves as Vice President of The Michigan Silversmiths Guild. Julie lives in Spring Lake, Michigan with her husband and two sons.

### 2015-16 Directory Email Corrections

Please change Carolyn Seng's email to read [carolyna2s@gmail.com](mailto:carolyna2s@gmail.com)

Also change Sylvia Dresser's email to read [sylviadresser@gmail.com](mailto:sylviadresser@gmail.com)

I will have labels for these changes at the October meeting.

Joan Nasiatka

### Lecture: Creative Design:

*Bring a sketchbook and pencil for note taking, illustrations and mini lessons.* Creative Design is a lecture and mini workshop to help the studio maker understand the dynamics of design fundamentals and how they relate to compelling compositions. Julie will offer visual examples, comparisons and hands on exercises to help you understand the elements and principals of art, develop your perspective as an artist and give you the vocabulary and confidence to talk and write about your work. Using these design fundamentals, along with your personal aesthetic, you will explore ways to create dynamic compositions in any medium.

### Workshop: Stone on Stone Tab-Set, Bi-Metal Pendant

Using simple principles of design and a free form cabochon stone, students will design a bi-metal, multi-layered pendant complete with tabs (prongs) to hold the stone and an incorporated bail to accommodate a chain or cord. You will create paper models to represent the layered components and use them as a template to cut metal sheet. Students will learn to use a jeweler's saw, drill a stone, make rivets, and bezel set a cabochon.

Professional hand finishing, mechanical finishing, patinas and design options will be explained and demonstrated. No torch will be used.

Students will have time to complete pieces in class and will leave with the confidence and skills to do this at home.



## Workshops and Programs

The first program and workshop was a success! We had an unprecedented number at the meeting, and Steve Pittlekow amused, entertained, and educated us with his beautiful marbled papers. He went on to mesmerize his workshop students with even more! Many of the participants had never done marbling before, but they still experienced success.

Workshops and programs are a great way to experiment with new media and materials. Even if you don't think you'll ever do it again, you have a good time, and gain a greater appreciation of the craft. I am so excited by the wide variety of programs I've been able to bring in this year. Our guild is amazing. You can try something new, and maybe it will become your new favorite thing.

The next several workshops are where you can try something new. The October lecture and workshop may be new for you. I have been to Julie Sanford's workshop, and witnessed a friend's work who took one of her workshops in metal jewelry. Julie has a ton of experience with beginners, and is a regular teacher at The Bead and Button Show. She has patience, and will teach you to use the tools in the right way. Do you want to learn how to do cold connections? Your project will look different from everyone else as there will be many pretty stones to pick from and she will walk you through designing the metal around your stone. Julie is a lapidary artist as well, so she can answer your questions about cabochons.

Julie will have most of the needed supplies to purchase. Let Sylvia know if you want Julie to bring these for you. I want to make sure she has them on hand for everyone who needs them. You no longer need to have a vise, as there will be a table set up with these. If you already have one, bring it along.

Speaking of bringing along, please bring paper or sketchbook and pencil to work on your own design ideas for Julie's lecture on "Creative Design" at the guild meeting.

Kat Wisniewski's November lecture on "Marketing Online" will be just in time for your own holiday marketing. If you don't own a business, or sell your goods, it's still a great idea to gain more savvy in this area to do your own holiday shopping. The chainmaille workshop will be great at relieving the post FAOF stress. If you would like to dip your pliers in my Tool Magic, I'll be available before the meeting for dipping to allow the pliers plenty of time to dry.

If you are needing a review on how to open the rings, or complete previous projects started in my mini-classes, then bring them along to Jeannette Page's house sometime between 10-12 on September 22, where I'll be holding a drop in clinic.

Looking ahead to January, Jan Gerber will be lecturing on Conductivity and Creativity, and working with us in the workshop on how to incorporate electronics into our own work.

Cindy Heineman

## 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 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.

## Fine Art of Fiber

Write these dates down on your calendar...

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

And there's still time to add your creations to the Silent Auction. If you can bring your donations to the October NSNG meeting, you can drop them off at the Fine Art of Fiber volunteer table. If not, contact Gretchen Alexander at 847-998-6040.

### Volunteering for the show...

We're still looking for volunteers for the show. And don't forget, if you volunteer, we have free parking passes to the Garden...a \$25 value. So come and sign up whether you have items in the show or not. We'll have sign-up sheets at the October meeting. If you have piece(s) in the Exhibit, you must work one shift, and if your piece(s) are for sale, you must work two shifts. If you have items in the Boutique, you must work two shifts. But you're welcome to work more if you just enjoy talking to the people who come to the show.

### Handicap Parking...

If you are volunteering for the show and need handicap parking, please let Gale Wessel know by October 6 (the next NSNG meeting). We need your license plate number, the make/model of your car and your cell phone number.

### Education...

Sue Babbs (847-446-5251). is still looking for volunteers to sit at the education table and talk about the guild. Please sign up with her. The Table also needs items and samples from the last year few years' workshops to show the extent of our diverse talents. This is another way of intriguing visitors to join our Guild. Note that these pieces are available for the public to touch, so please don't loan anything you don't want handled.

### Raffle...

Remember there is no raffle this year. Please donate your creations to the Silent Auction instead.

Finally...

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 our web site ([www.fineartoffiber.org](http://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](http://www.chicagobotanic.org/fiber)) . It has all the show times and special events.

## Service

Thank you to the many "Sewing Angels" who worked over the summer and brought completed kits to our September meeting! We are off to a good start in providing some joy to the needy in our community. We support WINGS, a shelter for battered women, sewing pillowcases and tote bags. We give quilts and Isolette covers to the Rush Neonatal Unit, along with crochet-edged fleece blankets. We are in the process of sewing literacy bags for a family shelter in the city.

Service Days will be held at Jeanette Page's home located at 2339 Dehne Rd. in Northbrook, usually on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of the month. We begin at 10:00, break for lunch, (bring a sack lunch for now) and continue to work until 3:00. We have sewing, cutting, sitting and standing jobs, so everyone has something to do. Jeanette's home is handicapped accessible including a chair lift. You are also welcome to come and work on your own projects while we talk and laugh together! It would be very helpful if you plan to attend to email Nancy at [rjcnmc74@comcast.net](mailto:rjcnmc74@comcast.net) or call Jeanette at 708-902-0087. We will have a sign-up sheet at the Service table for anyone wishing to receive an email reminder for our dates.

If you are unable to help us on Service days, how about donating a yard or two of flannel, fleece, denim or yarn?

The Freebie table was loaded last month and we expect more in October. Jeanette will be available to set up at 8:30. We invite you to "shop" early, but we will cover the tables from the start of the meeting until after Show and Tell.

Dates for Service: September 15 and 28. On the 21st, Cindy will teach a chain maille mini-workshop. Future dates: October 13 and 27; November 3 and 24 and December 8.

## **NSNG's 2015-2016 Annual Project**

You may take the high road and I may take the low road, but I know we will soon meet on "Garden Pathways," the theme of this year's NSNG's annual threaded needle project.

Fall is swiftly approaching, heralding that it is time to work on your annual project entry...exchange your gardening tools for needles and thread and let your imagination meander down the path that you choose!

Entries will be displayed at our holiday luncheon on December 1st. All members will have an opportunity to vote for their favorite entry. Remember, one of these valuable awards could be yours:

- 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

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## **Silent Auction Appeal**

Please remember to contribute items to the Silent Auction at the Fine Art of Fiber! You can bring your goodies to the next NSNG meeting, mail them to me, or even bring them to the Silent Auction table at the Fine Art of Fiber! You will find the form to accompany your contribution at [www.fineartoffiber.org](http://www.fineartoffiber.org) (Scroll to bottom of the page). Just fill out a form for each item.

Funds raised through the Silent Auction help to underwrite the cost of our workshops and cover speakers' fees. All types of handiwork are welcome. Thank you for your support of the Silent Auction!

Gretchen Alexander

**First Class Mail**