

Loose Ends & Gathered Threads

Newsletter of the North Suburban NeedleArts Guild
September 2015

*In creating, the only hard thing's to begin;
A grass-blade's no easier to make than an oak. ~ James Russell Lowell*

Val's Musings

"You just don't luck into things as much as you'd like to think you do. You build step by step, whether it's friendships or opportunities." (Barbara Bush)

I feel like time is flying by. And it is. How can we get everything done we would like to do? I don't have the answer to that. I hope that your Summer afforded you some time to relax and pursue what you enjoy most. I know mine did.

Gladly, here we are beginning a new and exciting guild year. As the quote above says, ".....you build step by step, whether it's friendships or opportunities." NSNG gives us the opportunity to do both and this year is no exception. Our workshops are varied and filling up quickly. But, if your preferred workshop is full, get on the waiting list. Oftentimes things change with people's schedules and you can fill that spot.

A workshop can change something for you. This year there is beading, marbling, boxmaking, quilting, technology, and other techniques to stimulate your muse. Maybe learning something new and different can point you in another artistic direction, or bring you a friend you didn't know you had in guild. That is what this guild offers to all of us.

The newsletter is filled with information on all that we do, so please read it through and decide what you might like to learn or try this year with the guild. Stretch yourself in our welcoming and friendly environment! Come to meetings, take an opportunity to learn and listen, and make new friends along the way.

Looking forward to an exciting and productive year with both new members and long-standing members. Often it is confusing for new members. If you have questions, please ask me. If I'm not sure of the answer, I'll find out for you.

See you in September!
Valerie

CALENDAR

Aug. 18 & 25 10:00 Service Projects at Jeanette

Page's, see p. 7

Tues. Sept. 1 9 - 9:30 am Socializing, sign up for workshops. At Gloria Dei, Cherry and Pflugsten in Northbrook

9:30 am Lecture and Demonstration: Stephen Pittelkow
Historic and Contemporary Marbling on Paper

Tues afternoon Begin Stephen Pittelkow 2- 1/2 Day Workshop: Marbled Box

Wed-Thurs, September 2-3 9:30 am, continuation of Marbled Box Workshop at Gloria Dei

Tues. Sept. 8 10:00 Board meeting at Gloria Dei

Tues. Sept. 15 10:00 Service Projects at Jeanette
Page's, see p. 7

Thurs. Sept. 17 Noon October Newsletter Deadline

Tues. Sept. 22 10:00 Service Projects at Jeanette
Page's, see p. 7

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- 2 NSNG Board
- 3 Programs
- 3 Stephen Pittelko, Sept. 1-3
- 4 Jule Sandford, Oct. 6-8
- 5 Fine Art of Fiber
- 6 Education Table Fine Art of Fiber
- 6 A thank-you from Madagascar
- 6 Annual Project
- 7 Silent Auction News
- 7 Hostessing
- 7 Welcome to Service
- 8 Summer Picnic & Mini Workshops

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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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Programs

This year we have an exciting line up of programs, and hopefully something for everyone. Please sign up quickly, as many workshops have already filled. Look in the program section of the web pages (nsng.org), or call Sylvia Dresser for more information on which workshops have filled. It costs nothing to be on a waitlist, and schedules change rapidly. For example we had a waitlist for September's workshop, and now everyone who was on the waitlist is able to take the class. We have one person who would like to give up her spot, so contact Sylvia if you are interested. We are able to offer fantastic bargains, that you won't be able to find anywhere else.

Make sure you remember that this year our first meeting is before labor day! Stephen Pittelkow will be giving a fabulous lecture and demonstration on marbling on paper. In October, Julie Sanford will be giving us some designing tips. For the October lecture, don't forget to bring a pencil and paper, or pencil and notebook to take some ideas into action. There are still spaces left in her 2 1/2 day workshop. Julie will be offering a kit of supplies for those just getting started in metal. Later in the fall, we'll have Kat Wisniewski for a lecture on selling online and a 1/2 day workshop on chainmaille.

Cindy Heineman

Stephen Pittelkow, Sept. 1-3, 2015

Steve Pittelkow has been marbling for over 30 years. As an amateur book binder he sought to create beautiful papers for his own work. His papers are known for their brilliant color and precise technique. Steve teaches marbling extensively in book art centers, colleges, and universities both here and Europe. He has taught at Penland, the Metropolitan, and the New York Center for Book Arts. His papers appear in several museum collections including Chicago's Newberry Library.

Lecture and Demonstration: Historic and Contemporary Marbling on Paper

Marbling or cloud art as it was called by the Turks who invented it over 500 years ago has a fascinating history even as it continues today to be a magical method for making decorative paper and cloth. Created as fine art for decoration or to embellish books, marbling has even been used as a security measure for bank notes. Our presenter will show many examples of historical marbling as well as work by contemporary artists. As part of the presentation, Steve will show the materials and tools used in marbling on paper and he will demonstrate several patterns while explaining the process.

Two and 1/2 Day Workshop: Marbled Box

In this fast paced class, we'll work in pairs to learn how to mix all the materials needed for marbling. 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. Utilizing bookbinding tools, each student will create an elegant box to adorn any space.

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.

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 Description:

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.

Fine Art of Fiber

Thursday: November 5, 2015,

6:30 pm – 9:00 pm (Preview Night)

Friday – Sunday: November 6 - 8, 2015,

It's time to complete your creations for the Fine Art of Fiber exhibit. *Everyone* can have one piece exhibited (and maybe more if there is space). All you have to do is to volunteer somewhere in the show for one shift (or two if you are planning to offer your piece for sale). Completed entry forms for the exhibit can be given to Gale Wessel at the September 1st Guild meeting or mailed directly to Chris Deering (7310 N Claremont, Chicago 60645) by September 11. A photo of your submission must be attached to the form. If your project isn't complete by September, photograph what you have done so far.

Please – make sure your measurements are accurate. We plan how to hang the show based on the measurements you give us. If they are wrong, we may not be able to hang your piece. Also, make sure your piece is not too heavy to hang. If you can't lift it, then none of us can either.

See the FAOF website for all the necessary forms and guidelines for the Exhibit, Boutique, Fashion Show, and Silent Auction at <http://fineartoffiber.org> For those of you who don't have internet access, we will try to have a few of each form at the September 1st NSNG meeting. We'll also have volunteer sign-up sheets—your choice of hanging, taking down or helping during the show.

Boutique – Please read the entry forms carefully. The due date for entry is September 11th. Price tags will be at the September 1st & October Guild meetings. If you can't make either meeting, call Pat Rued (847-267-1407) and she can mail the price tags to you.

Silent Auction - Please consider making at least one item for the silent auction – items need not be big or expensive, just beautifully made by you! Gretchen Alexander will accept your pieces right up to show time.

Raffle - If you haven't heard, we are not participating in the raffle this year. If you want to make something to support the guild, please make something for the silent auction.

Education – If you would like to sit and demonstrate your work for an hour or so on one of the days at the show, please sign up with Sue Babbs (847-446-5251). This year, Sue is also looking for former raffle volunteers (the ones who want a sitting job) to sit at the education table and talk about the guild. Please sign up with her.

Fashion Show – If fashion is your thing, you might want to enter something in the always popular Friday and Saturday fashion shows. The deadline for entry is October 1.

Discounted Personal Memberships of CBG - Our Guild has Plant Society membership of Chicago Botanic Garden to allow us to exhibit there. A significant benefit for each NSNG member as a result of this is a \$10 discount on any of the levels of membership of the Garden. Remember this when you renew your Garden membership.

Education Table Fine Art of Fiber

Volunteers and Samples

People are always fascinated to see us working at the Fine Art of Fiber and very curious about what our Guild has to offer. Please contact Sue Babbs if you would like to show your favourite technique to the public at our Guild's Education Table. We need members to volunteer for one shift (about 2-1/2 hours long) showing visitors what you love to do.

With all the fine art on the walls around us, we cannot have wet or messy activities involving paint, glue, dyes etc. at the tables, so your craft needs to be 'dry'—for instance, sewing, embroidery, needle-felting, beading, jewelry-making, kumihimo, or stitching. Please avoid quilting and weaving, as the other guilds will be demonstrating those.

We also need members who are prepared to simply sit and chat with visitors and tell them about our wonderful Guild. The person demonstrating does not always have time to talk about NSNG as she can be swamped with questions about her techniques.

Members without pieces in the exhibit are also welcome to volunteer!

Let me know if you have samples from Guild workshops which you would be happy to have displayed (and handled) on our table. This is another way of intriguing visitors to join our Guild.

A Thank-you from Madagascar

Dear Newly Found Friends at North Suburban NeedleArts Guild -

On behalf of the many Malagasy women who have benefitted from the massive amount of supplies brought over by Sue & Simon Babbs, we thank you! Your generosity in supporting the women's craft projects via donations of money and supplies is truly appreciated by us all here in southern Madagascar. The work Sue has done with the women is invaluable, transforming and empowering the lives of many. Thank you for being a part of the legacy they have left in Madagascar. May God bless you in return as we are blessed to be a blessing to others and "pay it forward" in life, as you have "paid it forward" to us.

With great appreciation and gratitude for your kindness -

Patsy McGregor

Annual Project

Vegetable, friendship, victory, plants

You might ask just what do these words have in common. This is your opportunity to think out of the box and showcase your threaded needle talents by participating in NSNG's 2015 Annual Project, "Garden Pathways."

Entries will be displayed at our holiday luncheon on December 1, 2015. All members will have an opportunity to vote for their favorite entry...and don't forget, one of these exciting awards could be yours:

1st Place \$100 towards a 2015-2017 NSNG workshop

2nd Place \$75 towards a 2015-2017 NSNG workshop

3rd Place \$5- towards a 2015-2017 NSNG workshop
Ladies, it's time to start down the garden pathway!
Marla Wolf

Silent Auction News

NSNG, along with Illinois Quilters Inc. and The Weaver's Guild, conducts a Silent Auction at the Fine Art of Fiber Show at the Botanic Garden. A wonderful array of items contributed by our members is auctioned each day of the show. Last year's Silent Auction netted NSNG \$1,514. Because NSNG is no longer having a raffle project, the Silent Auction has gained importance as a source of revenue for the Guild. The funds raised underwrite the cost of workshops and speakers.

Please contribute one or more items to the Silent Auction by filling out the form (found on-line at our web-site, (NSNG.org) and bringing your item(s) to our September or October Guild meeting. I will have a large basket waiting for your goodies. Scarves, hats, bags, purses, table runners, placemats, wall hangings, doll clothes, small and large quilts, pin cushions, jewelry, buttons, and aprons are just a few of the items that sell well at the Silent Auction table. If you have any questions about the Silent Auction, please call me at 847-257-2507.

I look forward to seeing your wonderful creations.
Gretchen Alexander

Hostessing

It is time to start a new season of classes. Now is the time to help the guild by:

- being a hosstess for a class
- picking up the teacher at the airport
- picking up the teacher at the hotel
- getting involved with the teacher

If you have any interest in volunteering for any of the above, please contact:

Arlene Winkel
224-778-5258
winkarlene@gmail.com

Welcome to Service

We have a wonderful place to gather together and help others using our needlework skills. Jeanette Page has graciously provided a space for us to sew, cut, crochet and knit in her home. Cozy, comfy and welcoming, with a chairlift to carry those who need it, our new space is accessible to all! We promise to keep you busy, but if you'd prefer to come and work on your own projects, we would love for you to join us.

Dates for Service:

We will start at 10:00, break for lunch, and work until 3:00.

August 18 and 25

September 15 and 22

October 13 and 27

November 3 and 24

December 8

For now, we ask you to bring a sack lunch, but drinks, coffee, water and pop will be provided.

We are going to set up a Group Email to send reminders and so you can respond if you are coming. Let Nancy Calandra or Jeanette know if you are interested, as it would be very helpful in knowing how many will attend Service Days.

We are in need of sewing machines and sergers. If you have a machine in working order that you would like to donate, we would be very grateful. If you can bring your own machine, that would be great, too!

Contact Nancy at rjcnmc74@comcast.net or 847-541-0016

Or Jeanette at 847-564-1057.

Jeanette's address is 2339 Dehne Rd. in Northbrook.

Summer Picnic and Mini Workshops

Thanks to all who attended our annual summer picnic. Thanks, Julie Rivera, our Hospitality Guild board member, and all attendees for the wonderful lunch. Sue Jacobs, a certified Zentangle teacher taught a 2 hour workshop on the art of zentangle. The room was so quiet you could hear a pin drop! After her instruction, we put all our zentangle tiles on the table to see each other's work. Through simple lines and a bit of shading, our pieces looked great and I am always amazed how the same instruction can lead to so many different looks. We had over 40 members in attendance, and the time went by all too quickly. A special thanks to Barbara Fry for recommending this wonderful teacher.

Due to scheduling of 2-1/2 day workshops and our holiday party, our first mini workshop will not be until January. Keep an eye on the newsletter for further information on upcoming events. If you have an interest in teaching a mini workshop, please contact Donna Koranek at djpotter3@comcast.net or 847-550-9322.

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First Class Mail