

# Loose Ends & Gathered Threads

Newsletter of the North Suburban NeedleArts Guild  
February 2016

*You must be the change you wish to see in the world. ~ Gandhi*

## Val's Musings

I am noticing that the days are getting longer, so it must mean that the dark of winter is over. I didn't say the cold of winter, just the dark of winter. I choose to think that even the weather will soon be steadily improving. I remember the last 2 years, which were very bad for getting to guild and workshops.

We have gotten off to a good start to the new year. The by-law committee has been working very hard to update the business of how to efficiently manage the guild. You will be hearing the details in upcoming newsletters, so stay tuned.

The nominating committee will be meeting very soon. It is important to get people to fill board positions and keep the guild running well. You all have talents and I hope you seriously consider saying yes when asked to help out.

So, on our journey of doing our art (passion), I will talk about *shape*. As we look around we see so much. It's hard to process everything that we see and make sense of it. Take a closer, more in depth look, and notice shapes around you. Those lines we talked about last month form the shapes we see all around. Shapes are just lines that are connected in some way. There are the obvious shapes of a square, a circle, a triangle (any geometric shape), an organic shape, or any other shape you can define. They can be single shapes or a combination of shapes. Most of our homes are a combination of geometric shapes. The diagram of a garden might be more organic or irregular. The shapes can determine symmetry, or not, in anything we look at. They can evoke a feeling, as in some abstract art. Really looking at something critically, we can discern the shapes that make up the whole. When learning to draw, the inspiration can usually be broken down to shapes which comprise the whole, and aid in getting the picture "right." While we have other principles to consider, we'll take a look at them in the coming months.

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## CALENDAR

**Tues. Feb. 2, 9 - 9:30 am** Socializing, sign up for workshops. At Gloria Dei, Cherry and Pflugsten in Northbrook

**9:30 am Lecture: Akemi Cohn**, Traces of Journey: personal expression through fiber

**Tues afternoon: Mini Workshop**, Marcey Pomerantz teaching kanzashi, Japanese fabric folding. See p. 6

**Wed.-Thurs Feb. 3-4 9:30 Workshop Akemi Cohn**, Indigo Shibori and Natural Dyes

**Tues. Feb. 9 10:00 Service Projects at Jeanette Page's**, see p. 5

**Thurs.-Fri Feb. 11-12**, 2nd session of Akemi Cohn workshop

**Tues. Feb. 16 10:00** Board meeting at Gloria Dei

**Thurs. Feb. 18 NOON** Deadline for January newsletter

**Tues. Feb. 23 10:00 Service Projects at Jeanette Page's**, see p. 5

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There is still time and opportunity to use these concepts by taking a workshop or mini workshop this year, and using your own unique creativity.

"None are so old as those who have outlived enthusiasm." Henry David Thoreau

Valerie

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## Akemi Cohn February 2-4

Akemi Cohn was born in Yokohama, Japan, but 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 at many venues both in the US and internationally.

Akemi's current work is focused on a process of memory by applying traditional Japanese rice paste resist and dyeing techniques. She discovered that the process itself is a reflection of the idea of her work. Natural dyes are used to remind us of the flora and fauna of our environment. The flowers themselves may be gone, but the colors can be preserved by collecting flower petals and extracting dye materials and dyeing a fabric. The colors may not be exactly the same, but may remind us of their original source. The fabric then becomes a record of their presence. Nothing stays the same. Creatures in the natural world will disappear. Akemi would like to capture images of the ephemeral or transient moment in her work. This is her medium for recording and expressing her thoughts.

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 on urban prairie through her personal experience. The flowers and plants provide natural dyes, the extraction and use of which will be demonstrated in the workshop.

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.

Colors and designs will be developed by over-dyeing and use of mordant. Techniques addressed will include stitching, pleating and binding methods, as well as soybean application for cotton and linen.

You will achieve rich painterly shades on your fabrics using traditional techniques for contemporary original pieces. Although indigo and natural dyeing have been applied to clothes and interior decorations for over 700 years in Japan, the harmoniously beautiful colors appear "contemporary" in our modern life style. Shibori techniques include Nui Shibori (various stitching methods) and Itajime Shibori (pleating and binding).

## Art Exhibit Opportunities

Our president, **Valerie Rodelli**, has work in both of these:

1. Postcard Art Competition and Exhibition.  
January 9-March 27, 2016 (framed mixed media postcards from all over the country)

Lake County Discovery Museum  
27277 N. Forest Preserve Rd.  
Wauconda, IL 60084

This exhibit will travel until December 2016.

2. Handmade Book Exhibit. January 15-February 27, 2016

The North Shore Senior Center  
161 Northfield Road  
Northfield 60693

## **Cynthia Boudreau, March 1-3**

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. Her designs are often inspired by nature and travel. She holds degrees from Northern Illinois University, the University of Wisconsin and Loyola University. Her work has been shown in several Midwest area galleries and in Art Wear Fashion Shows. She has won numerous awards which include Best in Show in 2012, and 2013 at the Uncommon Threads fashion show, The Dupage Art League has given her merit awards in the areas of both fashion and felted vessels.

Lecture: Joyful Play with Wool and Silk - The lecture will reveal the beauty of felting, shibori dyeing, and nuno felting.

2 day workshop starting Wednesday - Creating a Felted Hat or Vessel, and Creating a Nuno Shawl

For the first day of the workshop, "Creating a Felted Hat or Vessel," you will choose whether to create a cloche hat or vessel, working with a dry needle to achieve the desired shape, layers, and design. Then you'll wet felt and create the form over a hat block or vase shaped form. 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.

## **Workshops**

There are a few spaces remaining in several of our workshops for the 2015-2016 year. Those that still have room available are: February 11/12 (Akemi Cohn) and May 5 (Carol Ann Waugh).

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.

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](mailto:sylviadresser@gmail.com)

## **Call for Entries (time sensitive)**

The International Quilt Festival/Chicago will be April 7-9, 2016. The call for entries for modern and traditional quilters is up. All the information and forms can be found on its website at: <http://www.quilts.com/home/contests/index.php> now. Please think about entering your quilts for the show! The deadlines are January 29th for traditional or February 12th for modern.

## Days for Girls in Madagascar

Once again, Sue and Simon Babbs will be returning to Madagascar to work with the local people—see <http://babbsandbaobabs.blogspot.com/> for previous exploits! This year, my main focus will be on setting up a Days for Girls Enterprise in Toliara, so that the women can receive, make and sell sanitary napkin kits at an affordable price. Currently many girls miss one week of school a month, and the women are unable to work, which means no income and possibly no food for the family. Imagine using dirty rags, corn husks, newspaper, sand, leaves or sitting on cardboard for the week, and you'll soon see why I got involved in trying to help find a solution. See <http://www.daysforgirls.org/> for more information.

As well as this, I will continue to work on the beaded bracelets and kumihimo cords with the women.

The women were most appreciative of all that you sent to them last year, and we will once again be taking out supplies to use. DfG have tried and tested these pads for several years and have come up with a solution which they hope means all women will have access to affordable sanitary protection by 2022.

Supplies which we'd like to take out are: seed beads, drop beads, embroidery thread, machine thread, plastic KamSnaps size 20, PUL Moisture Barrier fabric from JoAnn's or DfG, one-gallon sized Ziploc Freezer baggies, twill tape, hotel soap, panties and washcloths (dark colors preferred), dark or brightly colored pre-washed flannel and cotton fabrics to make the liners, shields and bags.

Monetary donations would also be welcome to buy any of these supplies or sewing machines (electric \$160; hand \$80) or a serger (still awaiting price of this).

If anyone wants to make kits or elements of the kits, full patterns and instructions can be found on the DfG site, and we will happily take these with us to donate to girls and women in need. Or join us at the next Service Meeting at Jeanette Page's, 2239 Dehne Road, Northbrook, on January 26th from 10am onwards, when we will be trained to make the liners and shields.

We have a team of high school kids and chaperones going out from Atlanta in early summer who will be transporting the bags of supplies for me, so I need to receive any donated items by the April general meeting. If anyone has an unwanted duffel bag, we also need those to transport all those supplies in. Each bag needs to be strong enough to carry 50 lbs supplies, and preferably be lightweight itself (and foldable for the return journey).

I thank you all for your support and interest in this work in the south of Madagascar, which is one of the poorest countries in the world.

Sue Babbs

## Service

Please read Sue Babbs' article carefully. We are dropping all projects for the next 3 months to help the girls who miss school 1 week every month! We will meet January 26th at 10:00 at Jeanette Page's home to learn how to make the liners and shields. We need people who will iron, cut, sew and serge material for the kits to be sent to those who need them. If you would like to participate in this worthy project, contact Nancy at [rjcnmc74@comcast.net](mailto:rjcnmc74@comcast.net) to let us know if you are able to come so we have enough stations ready. Our other Service days are February 9 and 23, March 8 and 22, and April 12 and 26.

At our February meeting, we will continue to collect fabric for our other projects and the Freebie table will be open.

## Mini Workshops and Members' Sale

Many thanks to Cindy Heineman and Sheila Schaeffer-Hirsh for teaching us all about resin! The class was totally full and the two were most generous with their time and supplies.

February brings Marcey Pomerantz teaching kan-zashi, Japanese fabric folding. We will be shown how to make lovely fabric flowers. You will need to bring 8 4" squares of quilting fabric, a needle and thread. The fee for the workshop is \$10. The class is currently full but please add your name to the waiting list.

In March we will be holding our annual member sale. Take this chance to clean your closets and bring in your supplies and/or completed items you would like to offer for sale. Last year we had 22 people interested in participating so we have decided to limit each member to 1/2 of a table. It is most important that you contact me if you are interested in the sale so you will be ensured a space! Set up will begin at 8:30, no shopping during the meeting please. There is no fee so take advantage of this great opportunity.

In April Susan Kenyon will teach us how to crochet a hat and will discuss the importance of getting the correct gauge. This not a class to learn crochet; you should already know how to do a chain stitch and single crochet stitch. Please bring 1 skein of Red Heart worsted weight yarn in a solid color other than black (no variegated colors please). The fee is \$10.

I will have sign up sheets for all classes and the sale at our meetings. I can 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 at [djpotter3@comcast.net](mailto:djpotter3@comcast.net) or phone at 847-550-9322 for sign ups or ideas for future classes.

Donna Koranek

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**First Class Mail**