

# Loose Ends & Gathered Threads

Newsletter of the North Suburban NeedleArts Guild  
January 2016

*And now we welcome the new year, full of things that have never been.  
Rainer Maria Rilke*

## Val's Musings

Now that the guild holiday party is over and the Annual Project winners have been selected, it is a time to kick back on guild activities and enjoy the rest of the season with its celebrations and activities.

It is a time for some reflection and some goal setting. While we may not always meet our goals, it is good to write them down and do the best we can with achieving them. None of us reach *all* of our goals. Even if you just reach one, you are further along than when you started. Ahead of the game, and something you can look back on with satisfaction.

I talked a lot about color last newsletter. Now we go to another design principle...line. We see lines wherever we look. Sometimes we don't even realize it. There are many types of lines that define what we are seeing. There are straight lines, curvy lines, jagged lines, thick and thin lines, wavy lines and many more types of lines. They can delineate areas, make new shapes, outline shapes, and give us perspective. Once again, it does not matter what your medium may be. Line gives structure to most creations, even in an organic or abstract piece.

Why not look at things differently and really look at the lines in it? How are the lines connected to achieve what you are looking at in reality? Do this while looking at something in nature, an art piece, an object, picture in a book, or while taking a photograph. Try to discover what is pleasing to you and why it looks good. What would happen to it if you removed some of the lines? Give it some serious thought. It just might help your creative juices flow during the next year to achieve one of your goals! We still have exciting meetings, workshops and mini workshops for the second half of our guild year. See you at one of them in 2016!

Happy New Year to each of you. I wish you many blessings, good health, and a great creative year.

Valerie

## CALENDAR

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

**9:30 am Lecture:** Jan Gerber, Conductivity and Creativity

**Tues afternoon: Mini Workshop,** Resin workshop with Cindy Heineman and Sheila Schaeffer-Hirsh. See p. 5

**Wed.-Thurs Jan. 6-7 9:30 Workshop Jan Gerber**  
Creating Electronic Textiles

**Tues. Jan. 12 10:00 Service Projects at Jeanette Page's,** see p. 4

**Tues. Jan. 19 10:00** Board meeting at Gloria Dei

**Thurs. Jan. 21 NOON** Deadline for January newsletter

**Tues. Jan. 26 10:00 Service Projects at Jeanette Page's,** see p. 4

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## Upcoming Art Events

Guild members will be featured in these.

**Material View**, an exhibition showcasing work by members of the Art Cloth Network, will run from November 30th – December 28th in the Noyes Cultural Center, Gallery 1, 927 Noyes Street in Evanston, IL . Gallery hours are 10am - 7pm Monday - Saturdays and 10am - 6pm Sundays.

Curator: Maggie Weiss

**Women's Journeys in Fiber.** Reception January 31, 1-4 pm at Anderson Arts Center, 121 Sixty Sixth Street, Kenosha, WI, 53143. Exhibit will run from January 31 to March 13th. See the umbrellas if you missed them at FAOF, or see them again!

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.

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## Jan Gerber, January 5-7

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.

## Holiday Party Wrap up

Thanks to every one for helping to make the party go smoothly, especially Ann Wasserman, Marcia Hartnell and Jeanette Page for running our gift exchange.

Many of you asked who created our beautiful center pieces. Here is her contact info: Donna at Petal Service. [www.petal-service.com](http://www.petal-service.com)

Julie

## Purchasing Beads Wholesale

At our November meeting our speaker mentioned purchasing beads at a wholesale price. I belong to a yahoo group called beadbuyinggroup (all one word) and we participate in ongoing buys and group buys. Judith, the woman who runs the group, has wholesale accounts set up with many vendors. There are a few ongoing buys, one of which is Fire Mountain Gems. If there is an interest, an order can be placed once a week. Your pricing will be the top tier pricing of 200+ and an additional 10% discount on regularly priced items (I don't think there is an additional discount on clearance items). There are some fees involved, there is a \$3 buy fee for every order you place to offset shipping supplies from the buy hostess, paypal fees need to be reimbursed to the hostess and shipping fees from the company and then to you. For example, if 5 people ordered from FMG, shipping from the company to the hostess (Judith) would be split 5 ways. Znet and FDJ Tools are also ongoing buys.

Judith has recently had some health problems so we haven't done group buys lately. However, when a group buy takes place, prices are listed in a spreadsheet on the yahoo group site, orders are placed, you pay Judith through paypal and she places the order, sorts it and ships it to the participants. Group buys are not quick! It can take a couple of months to receive your beads from the time the buy begins. This is different from ordering from FMG which usually has a quick turn around time.

It may seem like a lot of fees but the prices in a few of the group buys I have participated in have been great and far outweigh the fees paid. To sign up for the group, you will need to create a yahoo account if you don't already have one. Search under yahoo groups for bead buying group and click Join This Group. You will have to enter your name etc. and lastly you will be asked, why do you want to join this group. Here you can enter that you are part of NSNG as I have already told Judith I will be inviting people from the guild. You will shortly thereafter receive and email announcing your acceptance into the group. All the information I have explained is listed in the files section of the group and contains all information needed to place an order. Please contact me at my phone or email listed under mini workshops for additional information.

Donna Koranek

## 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 dying 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.

### Service Update

We wish to thank all who have helped us sew, crochet and knit 79 blankets and isolette covers for the Rush Neonatal Unit as well as 40 hats, and 78 pillowcases and 22 tote bags for WINGS, a shelter for battered women and children. How generous you are with your time, talents, and donations of materials for us. We are so appreciative!

We are always able to use cotton material, flannel, and in particular, denim for a project for some special children in another shelter in the city. Shopping for Christmas material? Pick up an extra yard for pillowcases for the YWCA.

We will collect your extra Christmas cards for the Veterans too.

Our January Service days will be held at Jeanette's home, located at 2339 Dehne Rd. in Northbrook on January 12 and 26 at 10:00. Email Nancy at [rjcnmc74@comcast.net](mailto:rjcnmc74@comcast.net) if you plan on joining us. We want you to come!

Nancy Calandra and Jeanette Page

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).

### Programs

The year's been off to a great start! So far we've enjoyed marbling, designing, jewelry making, and focusing on business skills! 2016 will continue to be an exciting year, with lectures and workshops on creativity, lighting up your creations, felting, designing quilt tops, and getting personal with your sewing machine.

If you are planning on taking Jan's workshop in Electronic Textiles, please get in touch with her regarding what you'd like to do for a project. Akemi Cohn had so many people sign up that we are able to have her twice! The second workshop will be February 11th and 12th. Talk with Sylvia Dresser if you are interested in joining this workshop, or if you are interested in switching times. If there are enough openings, you may even be able to sign up for both workshops. Akemi is fantastic at giving you new challenges if you need them, and individualizes the experience.

Happy New Year!

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. If you plan to make resin paper, please bring waxed paper and rubber gloves. For an opaque look to your paper, apply 2 coats of Modge Podge to your paper before class.

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 kanzashi, 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.

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 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 or phone at 847-550-9322 for sign ups or ideas for future classes.

Donna Koranek

## A Big Silent Auction thank you

The generous donations of our members is the reason for the success of this year's FAOF Silent Auction. The following members (listed in no particular order) contributed items to the Silent Auction: Donna Koranek, Bobbye Weisgerber, Arlene Kingwill, Mary Ann Kopp, Beth Polonsky, Roslyn DeBoer, Marcia Martnell, Cathy Mendola, Patricia Niffenegger, Elizabeth Ginlette, Liz Zwiener, Camilla Krueger, Ardis Mistak, Sylvia Dresser, Marcey Pomerantz, Betty Becker, Sheila Schaeffer-Hirsh, Gretchen Alexander, Mary Ware, Hedy Wessel, Sue Babbs, Jeanette Page, Barbara Schneider, Cynthia Boudreau, Dorothy Kroll, Valerie Rodelli, Gale Wessel, Sandra Geis, Janet Sumner, Mary McManus, Meredith Montross, and Stephanie Nordlin. Additional items were donated anonymously. Steven Pittelkow, our September presenter donated marbled papers for the auction.

Silent Action dollars help to underwrite the service projects of our guild. Please consider what you can contribute to next year's Silent Auction as you go about your creations in the coming year.

Thank you again and again to everyone who contributed to the Silent Auction and assisted at the Silent Auction table during the Fine Art of Fiber.

Gretchen Alexander and Meredith Montross

## Fine Art of Fiber

We had another successful show this year thanks to all the hard work of our exhibitors, vendors, and volunteers. The Garden counted 9,468 visitors over the three days of the show: 1663 on Friday, 3771 on Saturday, and 4034 on Sunday. For the silent auction, our members donated 134 items, more than the other two guilds combined. Our total for the silent auction was \$2,261.50 which will go a long way toward financing speakers and workshops and parties for next year.

The viewer's choice winners were: First Place – A Garden for My Granddaughter by Donna Derstadt, Second Place – Fire Island Hosta by Mary Meyers, and Third Place – Yesterday's Rose by Angel Sidor.

Thank you again to all who contributed to the show and to our partners at IQI and WGNS for another great year.

## 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 it is the easiest way for me to remind you. You may bring a check to the January meeting, or mail it to me. Thanks to those who have already paid their balance!

There are spaces remaining in several of our workshops for the 2015-2016 year. Workshops that still have spaces available are: January (Jan Gerber), 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)

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