

# Loose Ends & Gathered Threads

Newsletter of the North Suburban NeedleArts Guild  
May 2017

*Without negative space how would we appreciate the positive in our art and in our lives?*  
Dyan Law

## Beth no longer babbles

What motivates you?

Beauty? Friends? Classes? Conversation? Politics?  
Family? Exploring new disciplines?

Or in my case deadlines!\*

I'm a daydreamer. I look at fabric and get inspired. I troll through the internet at necklaces and bracelets and embroidery. I buy the fabric, the beads, and the tools. You get the picture—that's how a stash is born!

And this creates two possibilities. The first is you never have to leave your house to complete a project. The second is you just look at your stash and imagine. The brain is the greatest tool—and of course, our arthritic hands! But what moves you to start? What moves you to finish? And then what moves you to start all over again.

Is your art/craft/projects for your own pleasure?  
Sales? Gifts? Display? Competitions?

Whatever it is, look into your heart and your list of want to in your brain and define your motivation and pick up those needles, threads, beads and tools and just have at it. Nothing is more satisfying!!

\*Speaking of deadline consider your admission to the Fine Art of Fiber—you have all summer and the Annual Project, you will have a whole *month* after FAOF to complete. Just a suggestion!!

Beth

## CALENDAR

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

**9:30 am Lecture Joni-Dee and David Ross**, Nantucket Baskets, an American Tradition.

**Following the meeting: Annual potluck, see p. 3**

**Afternoon: Begin Joni-Dee & David Ross workshop**, Not your Grandpa's Nantucket Baskets.

**Wed.-Thurs. May 3-4** Continuation of Joni-Dee & David Ross workshop at Gloria Dei

**Fri-Sat. May 5-6 continuation of 2nd workshop** at Gloria Dei.

**Tues. May 9, 10:00 Service Projects at Jeanette Page's**, see p. 7

**Tues. May 16, 10:00** Board meeting & potluck at Gloria Dei

**Tues. May 16, 10:00 Service Projects at Jeanette Page's**, see p. 7

**Tues. May 23 and 30, 10:00 Service Projects at Jeanette Page's**, see p. 7

**Tues. July 11 Summer Picnic** at Gloria Dei. Details will be e-mailed later.

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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

1/4 page \$8 per issue

1/2 page \$16 per issue

Mary McManus, ed.

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mrmcmanus@gmail.com

## May 2-4 - Joni-Dee & David Ross

Joni-Dee and David Ross are long time life partners, and partners in Handmade North Carolina Baskets in Summerfield, North Carolina. Joni-Dee designs the basket patterns and David produces the hardwood components for their business.

Lecture: Their lecture will be "Nantucket Baskets: An American Tradition." Beginning on Nantucket Island, these baskets have a unique place in American history. Tied to lighthouses and the whaling industry, Nantucket baskets have evolved to incorporate contemporary colors, patterns and designs.

**2 1/2 day Workshop starting Tuesday - Not Your Grandpa's Nantucket Baskets - Full** - Please e-mail Sylvia Dresser to be placed on the waiting list

**Second workshop added due to popularity** - 1/2 day on Tuesday, 2nd. Then full day on May 5th and 6th.

Workshop participants will be able to choose from a group of baskets and trays especially selected because they can be completed within the two and a half day workshop. Joni-Dee and David will provide hands on assistance and encouragement.

## Potluck Luncheon after May Meeting (Hats Optional)

Our potluck luncheon will be held immediately following the May meeting. Please bring a favorite dish to share. Coffee, soft drinks and water will be provided.

If you are inclined to wearing hats, please do. You can dress up or dress down. Hats are not required. Although I make hats, I seldom wear them. Seeing the wonderful hats that my fellow members wear gives me lots of ideas and inspiration.

Because we will be on a tight timeline for the meeting, potluck and workshop, we will be sitting at tables for the meeting, then setting them for the potluck. The Nantucket basket workshop will begin about 1:00 in another room, so those of you who wish to stay and chat will be able to do so.

Come and enjoy good food and conversation with our fellow guild members at our year end meeting.

## Membership Renewal

Please bring your personalized NSNG renewal form, with both sides completed, to the May meeting or mail it to:

Janet Rivara, 1180 Walnut Lane, Northbrook, IL 60062.

If your form has gone missing, no worries! There is a blank form for you to use on our website:

[http://nsng.org/2017-18 NSNGMembership.pdf](http://nsng.org/2017-18%20NSNGMembership.pdf)

One's membership dues have to be paid before signing up for any of the wonderful classes on offer for 2017-18 and in order to be listed in the *2017-2018 Membership Handbook and Picture Directory*.

### Studio Rental by Day

Is there a surface design project that you have always wanted to do but you don't have the space or resources? Studio 205 H at the Starline Gallery in Harvard, IL is available for rental. The 30' x 40' studio is located in a historic building in downtown Harvard at the end of the Northwest Pacific commuter train line.

Studio is equipped with: 2 – 16 foot long x 4 foot wide work tables, washer, dryer, steamer pot, Rowenta steam iron (professional), Hot plate, dye microwave, drying racks, oversize cutting board, design wall, light table, easel, photography setup, hot plate, dye microwave, drying racks, oversize cutting board, large sink, small tools, thermofax screens, blank silkscreens, design resource books, plastic, table covers, refrigerator, microwave, Keurig coffee maker. Design professional available for consultation.

Come with your ideas, enjoy your time, make progress, come back again! Daily rental fee: 1 person for \$125, 2 people sharing, \$75 each

Contact us for schedule and to make arrangements: Barbara Schneider, [bjscoartist@gmail.com](mailto:bjscoartist@gmail.com), 815-403-6424, Debby Henning, [debby.henning@mac.com](mailto:debby.henning@mac.com), 262-215-6769  
(paid advertisement)

## 2017-18 Programs and Workshops

### Sept 5-7, 2017-Jane Sauer

Since graduating Washington University School of Art in 1959, Jane Sauer has had a long and varied career devoted to the arts. During this time she has given many lectures, curated numerous exhibits, and juried shows, fellowships and grants. She helps guide artists of all types to feel more secure in judging their own art and assists them in finding direction. Jane is part of the Archives of American Art, Smithsonian Institute of American Art, Washington, DC, an Honorary Fellow of American Craft, and was awarded Distinguished Alumni Award, Washington University, St. Louis, MO

#### **Lecture: Textiles Arts: Past/Present/Future**

Who were the pioneers of textile arts? What is happening now in the world of textile arts and what might the future hold?

#### **Wednesday workshop: Artists' Practices/ Questions and Answers**

What are my goals in making art? Do I want to sell or purely enjoy the making? How do I bring balance between my art and the rest of my life? Learn just about everything you need to know about how to display and photograph your work, enter a juried show, contact/work with galleries and other exhibition spaces and much more. Jane will give a series of presentations with many opportunities for Q and A and lively discussion sure to inspire. Fee \$40

#### **Thursday workshop: A Fresh Look – Critiquing Your Work**

Whether you are an established artist, or just starting out, talking to a sympathetic expert and participating in group discussion can be very helpful in gaining a new perspective on your work. This will be a day in which each participant will have the opportunity to present a minimum of 3 pieces of their work and receive feedback from Jane and others in the group in a safe and warm environment. Each participant will be asked to bring at least 3 pieces of their art and be prepared to talk about their art practice and their desires about that art. Fee \$40

### **October 3-5, 2017- Stephen Pittelkow**

Steve Pittelkow will join us to share his expertise in the traditional art of Turkish Marbling. Steve has been binding books as a hobby since the age of 15. His interest in marbled paper stems from a longtime desire to personalize his own bookbinding with distinctive papers. He teaches extensively and enjoys revealing the secrets for successful marbling. He has taught at

musems, craft schools, colleges, universities and book arts centers in the United States and Europe. Steve is happy to return to NSNG where he enjoyed the eagerness of our students several years ago, and we look forward to welcoming him back!

#### **Lecture-A Brief History of Decorative Paper**

From block printing to marbling, suminagashi to chiyogami, this talk will show the evolution of many types of decorative paper still manufactured today. Steve will provide a demonstration of his marbling process. Along the way, we'll see how book artists and others are using beautiful papers in their work.

#### **Tuesday and Wednesday Workshop (1 1/2 days): Marbling on Paper and Silk**

Marbling offers a great opportunity to study both pattern and color. In this class, students will learn all aspects of acrylic paint marbling from mixing paint to perfecting intricate designs. We'll create a portfolio of fine papers for use in many projects. In addition to many sheets of paper, students will also marble a silk scarf. Fee \$115

#### **Thursday Workshop: Elegant and Useful Softbound Books**

In this fast paced class, we'll explore several styles of softbound books—some dating to 15th century Italy. Students will use leather, thread, and a bit of glue to create useful and beautiful books with decorative spines and covers. Perfect for journaling, drawing, photo collections, and countless other uses, these little gems will find a permanent place in your book shelves. Each participant will receive a special book-binding needle as well as templates for further work. Made with easily available materials, these books will certainly inspire your creativity. Fee \$55

### **November 7-9, 2017-Barbara Wisnoski**

Montreal artist Barbara Wisnoski is a visual and tactile creator of 2.5D textile wall installations from recycled fabrics and clothing. Her artwork honors the memory embodied in clothing and the absurdity of repetitive labour and dwells happily in the gaps between art, craft and design. Barbara has a BFA in Fibres, a BA in Philosophy and an MA in Art History. Her work has been exhibited in many countries.

#### **Lecture: In Praise of Sloppiness**

In this lecture, you will discover an inspiring range of work by contemporary artists who ignore the rules of traditional technique and rip, tear, slash, burn, crush or otherwise destroy as an integral part of their creative process. Barbara will also present an overview

of her own textile art practice and recent body of work, known for its subtle colour palette and “sloppy” aesthetic, as well as her recent curatorial projects. She will share details of the technique she has developed to create her densely textured bas-relief murals and installations.

**Workshop ( 2 1/2 days ) : Repurposing Old Clothing and Fabric, Precious or Not**

This workshop will focus on your scrap heap and overflowing closet: a precious family heirloom that’s becoming a burden or a favourite old garment that’s too stained, threadbare or moth-eaten to wear, bring your fabrics with a history that you want to honour or otherwise deal with, and join Barbara in two days of creative destruction. Be prepared to cut them up, draw on them or otherwise transform them with your own touch. You will have the opportunity to experiment with the technique for a larger project to be finished at home, or to create a smaller finished piece. This workshop is open to all sewing levels. \$Fee 110

Website: <http://www.barbarawisnoski.com>

**January 9-11, 2018: Catherine Redford**

Born and raised in Northwest England, Catherine learned to knit and sew as a child. Three years after her family moved to Naperville, Illinois in 1995, Catherine discovered quilting when she took a class at a local quilt store, and the rest is history. A class with Phil Beaver in 2005 challenged her to take her art further and she now creates more of her own original pieces. Quilting and embellishing is her outlet of choice.

**Lecture: Trip Around the World in Folk Art Stitches.** Using a series of embroideries inspired by the folk art of different cultures and combined into small quilts we’ll enjoy a quick trip around the globe, encompassing virtually every continent, without leaving our seats! Humorous and informative, listen carefully and you might win a prize.

**Workshop: Wool Appliqué with Dimensional Embroidery Embellishment**

Learn the techniques required for successful whip-stitch wool appliqué while working on a small project that can be finished into a needle case or pin cushion. Add fun and interesting embroidery stitches and beads to embellish and add dimension to your project. (Beginners through advanced stitchers) Fee \$115

Website: [catherineredford.com](http://catherineredford.com)

**February 6-8, 2018: Natasha Lehrer Lewis**

Natasha has a great passion for connecting the worlds of fiber art, agriculture and education.

She works with the wool that is a gift from the

sheep on her farm and sews, felts and embellishes her way to beautiful 2D and 3D creations. Her wearable art is truly a labor of love and embodies her ‘sheep to chic’ ethic! She hopes to inspire others at her fiber arts studio, Esther’s Place, in Big Rock, Illinois.

**Lecture: Inside the Mind of the Artist**

Natasha has a conviction about the world around her and the rural lifestyle she has come to hold dear. In her lecture, she will share her goals as a fiber artist in rural America to capture that emotion and broaden the depth and meaning of her pieces.

**Workshop: Nuno Felt Fantasia: Discovering the Magic of Wearable Art**

During this two day workshop, Natasha will lead you through the design, felting, construction and fitting of a nuno felted vest. Students will learn, laugh, dream and stretch their creativity while making a one-of-a-kind art wearable. One piece of nuno felted yardage will be fashioned into a minimal-sewing vest where the elements of silk and nuno felt dance in harmony. Fee \$200

Websites: <http://www.natashalehrerlewis.com/>  
<http://www.esthersplacefibers.com/>

**March 6-8, 2018: Heidi Parkes**

Heidi Parkes is a fiber artist in Milwaukee, WI and a graduate of The School of the Art Institute of Chicago (SAIC). Her work is focused on hand quilting and mending. She pieces and quilts in an improvisational style which is well known in ‘The Quilts of Gee’s Bend’. Her quilts are not pre-planned, but she rather reacts to the work as she’s creating it. Heidi speaks to quilt guilds, teaches workshops, and has several podcast interviews available on iTunes.

**Lecture: The Process and Philosophy of Making my Quilts**

In this lecture, Heidi will share her many inspirations and take us along with her on her journey of exploration and improvisation in the world where fabric meets art.

**Workshop (2 1/2 days): Piecing as Painting (piecing, handwork techniques, and hand quilting)**

Heidi will talk through her artistic process, and meet with students one-on-one. Her Tuesday lecture will cover concept development. In the afternoon we will discuss our inspiration/homework, and Heidi will demonstrate several techniques. On day 2, we will begin piecing our quilts, and Heidi will work with students to further investigate ideas and techniques. On day 3, Heidi will demonstrate hand quilting techniques, and we will practice hand quilting

and continue piecing at our own pace. All levels are welcome in this fun and rewarding class. Fee \$115

Website: <http://www.heidiparkes.com/>

Instagram: @heidi.parkes

**April 3-5, 2018: Elizabeth St Hilaire**

Elizabeth is an award winning collage artist who holds a BFA in advertising design from Syracuse University. Elizabeth uses torn pieces of paper to create energetic artworks that are fun, humorous, colorful and most importantly always filled with emotion. From a distance, her work can look like an impressionist painting, but take a close look and you will see bright, printed snippets of all sorts of hand made and hand painted collage papers. Her fresh color aesthetic lends itself to the delightful subject matter of peacocks, sea turtles, and cows, not to mention her glorious flowers and still lifes. Her paintings and designs may be found on calendars, journals and prints in stores such as Pier One Imports. In addition to working as a graphic designer, she travels the country giving workshops on representational collage.

**Lecture: Paper Painting Collage**

Many years ago, when Elizabeth's father rescued a scrap box of childhood mementos from the attic, she decided to find a way to incorporate these sentimental papers, notes and snippets of her family's past into something both memorable and beautiful. Thus her career in collage was born. We will learn how her technique has evolved through the years as she shares her journey and love of collage that started long ago.

**Workshop (2 1/2 days): Painted Paper Workshop**

This is an intense workshop in which you are taught a unique figurative collage technique. You will explore hand painting your own papers with a variety of techniques to create a beautiful palette of colors. Enjoy splattering, stamping, printing, dry brushing, crumpling, and staining papers that will be collaged over an underpainting in a painterly manner. You will explore drawing, composition, proportion, value, color, and collage application. Emphasis will be on developing form using light and shadow, just like in traditional painting techniques. No prior collage experience is necessary. Some painting experience would be helpful, but not imperative. This workshop is for both new and returning students. We will have a great time learning, laughing and painting! Fee \$225

Website: <http://www.paperpaintings.com/>

**May 8-10, 2018: Carol Naylor**

UK artist Carol Naylor creates exquisitely machine embroidered textiles for public and private venues. Carol looks to her native English countryside, as well as her travels for her inspiration. By stitching directly onto painter's canvas with a wide range of rayon, cotton, wool and metallic threads, she expresses the great beauty of the surrounding landscape. Drawing is an essential part of Carol's process and before beginning a textile piece, she makes a series of drawings in her sketchbook. She then heads to her sewing machine to begin to build layer upon layer of machine stitching, often sewing from the backside of the fabric. Carol's work has been featured in many publications around the world. She has exhibited and taught throughout the UK, US, New Zealand, France and Portugal.

Her work has been purchased for public and corporate collections and by many private clients worldwide.

**Lecture: Crossing Boundaries From hand to machine.**

Carol will share how her own work has developed over time, focusing on the usage of stitch techniques, colours, threads and materials, and the translation of imagery to create a painterly approach to textiles. A once reluctant embroiderer, she is now passionate about what she does! A talk with some slides, lots of work to look at and sketchbooks as well.

**Workshop (2 1/2 days): The Land We Know**

Working from photos or drawings of landscapes you have seen, we will use intensive machine stitching to make lovely sweeps of line and colour. We will experiment, play, draw with our machine, and gradually throughout the course you will develop your own ideas, choosing which techniques to use that best suit you. Those of you with less experience or just starting out will be able to take things at your own pace. Through simple design sessions, and by looking at qualities of colour, tone and line, and the balance between foreground and distance, you will create a unique piece of textile art that brings all of these elements together. This course is suitable for students of all levels.

Fee \$150

Website: <http://www.carolnaylor.co.uk>

## Fine Art of Fiber

It's time to start thinking about Fine Art of Fiber 2017 and about all the exciting artworks you will be creating for the exhibit, the boutique and the silent auction. Entry forms and instructions will be on the FAOF web site ([fineartoffiber.org](http://fineartoffiber.org)) by mid-June. Exhibit and Boutique entries are due by Monday, September 12, 2017. Please mail your entries to Chris Deering – her mailing address is on the entry forms. Be sure to include a color-correct 4" x 6" photo of each piece you submit to help the selection committee with hanging decisions. Opening night is Thursday, November 2, and the show will run through Sunday, November 5, 2017. Be sure to write these dates on your calendar. Remember, this is your show, and we want to see you and your art!

Shelley

## Workshop Registration

Next year's workshops have been announced, and soon it will be time to register! Registration opens at our May meeting, May 2.

I will be sitting at the workshop registration table that morning, ready to receive your registrations. They will be processed later in the order in which I receive them. Please be patient if there is a line - I will check over each one to make sure I have the information I need to process them. Later, you will receive an email from me, informing you of the workshops in which you are registered, or if you have been placed on the waiting list if it is already full.

If you cannot attend the May meeting, you may mail the registration forms to me, postmarked on or after May 2.

Workshop registration forms were distributed at the April meeting, and will be available on the NSNG website.

We have yet another great year of workshops coming, hope you can enjoy one or more of them.

Sylvia Dresser  
496 Castlewood Lane  
Deerfield, IL 60015  
[sylviadresser@gmail.com](mailto:sylviadresser@gmail.com)

## Service

We wish to thank all who helped this year in so many ways to bring some happiness to others in our community and the world. You continue to amaze us with your generosity. One way to thank you is our 2nd annual FREE RAFFLE. We will have several unfinished quilt tops and other items to raffle off. Everyone will receive 3 tickets and you can place them in a bag particular to the item you like.

We are finishing up Days For Girls kits, so we are asking those who have items outstanding to bring them to the May meeting. We are in special need of washcloths, soap and zip-loc baggies without the zipper. We will work on this project again in January.

If you would like to take kits to make pillowcases, baby quilts or tote bags over the summer, we will have an assortment at the Service Table. We have note cards for sale at \$6.00 for 6 cards. We will also have coasters made by the women of Madagascar, 4 for \$10.

The Freebie Table will be open at the May meeting. We will collect needle art related books and magazines for the Summer picnic. All proceeds will go to Service to subsidize our projects.

We meet every Tuesday, 10:00 at Jeanette Pages' home at 2339 Dehne Rd. in Northbrook. Please call her if you plan to come, 847 564 1057. We even work all summer!

## 2017 Annual Project

As summer approaches, you might want to be working on your entry in this year's NSNG annual Project. The theme is:

Baubles, Beads, Buttons and Bows

Any or all of the above. Entries will be shown at our Holiday Party in December.

Don't forget the rewards that await our winners!

First place – a \$100 gift certificate toward a 2017-18 or 2018-19 NSNG workshop

Second place- a \$75 gift certificate toward a 2017-18 or 2018-19 NSNG workshop

Third place- a \$50 gift certificate toward a 2017-18 or 2018-19 NSNG workshop

## Mini Workshops

Ideas for our summer picnic, which will take place on July 11th are currently being considered, so please chime in (even if it's a project you would like to see but may not be able to teach). If you have a talent to share, please contact me at [djpotter3@comcast.net](mailto:djpotter3@comcast.net) or 847-738-9322.

Donna Koranek

## Bylaws

In accordance with our current practice, we have changed our legal name from the original name for this group, the North Suburban Embroiders Guild, to the North Suburban NeedleArts Guild. Because our bylaws reference our former legal name, we have to change the name of the Guild in the Bylaws. A vote on this issue will take place at our annual meeting in May.

North Suburban NeedleArts Guild  
Mary McManus, ed.  
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Forest Park, IL 60130-2019

**First Class Mail**