

Loose Ends & Gathered Threads

Newsletter of the North Suburban NeedleArts Guild
September 2017

The beginning is the most important part of the work. ~ Plato

I am what I am: My journey in fiberarts

My Bube Jenny was an incredible woman. She emigrated to the U.S. in 1912 at the age of 14, or at least we think she was 14. Record keeping wasn't very good in the pogrom years of Russia. Her brothers and sisters came to the US one at a time. Their sponsor was Auntie Star who owned a dress store. It was natural that the Gelfmans all became part of the "Rag" business. Some worked at the store in alterations, but most ended up in the sweatshops working long hours under horrible conditions. And they survived, raising and educating their children to be professionals. What is so amazing to me is that many of us, just two generations later, have returned to sewing and needlecrafts by choice. We were educated just as our parents were, became professionals, but still took the time to learn the skills that our grandparents depended on just to put meals on the table.

I spend a lot of time with my mom as she ages. She worked until she was about 70. She always said that sewing skipped a generation. She is a phenomenal knitter, but hates to sew the "seams" of an afghan or sweater. My Bube could not knit, but her crochet talents were second to none. Needless to say, I sew and crochet like my Bube. Not to say I can compare my talent to hers. I don't hold a candle to her. But Bube Jenny was my inspiration. My cousins, when they see the work I do, tell me that Bube is smiling down at me. I hope I do her justice.

And the journey continues.....

Beth

CALENDAR

Tues. Sept. 5, 9 - 9:30 am Socializing, sign up for workshops. At Gloria Dei, Cherry and Pflingstenin Northbrook

9:30 am Lecture Jane Sauer, Textiles arts: Past/Present/Future

Afternoon: Mini Workshop, Embroidery with Jenny Ross. See p. 6

Wed. Sept. 6 9:30 Workshop Jane Sauer Artists' practices: Questions/Answers at Gloria Dei

Thurs. Sept. 7 Workshop Jane Sauer A fresh look: critiquing your work at Gloria Dei

Tues. Sept. 12, 19 and 26 10:00 Service Projects at Jeanette Page's, see p. 5

Tues. Sept. 19, 10:00 Board meeting at Gloria Dei

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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

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

Oct. 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 long-time desire to personalize his own bookbinding with distinctive papers. He teaches extensively and enjoys revealing the secrets for successful marbling. He has taught at museums, 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.

Additional session of Marbeling workshop: Tues. afternoon, Oct. 17 and all day Oct. 18th.

Fine Art of Fiber

It's time to complete your creations for the Fine Art of Fiber exhibit! The show this year is Thurs, Nov 2 – Sunday, Nov 5. Everyone can have one piece exhibited (more if there is space). All you have to do is volunteer in the show for one shift (two if you have work for sale). Completed entry forms for the exhibit can be given to Shelley Brucar at the September 5 Guild meeting or mailed directly to Chris Deering (7120 W. Niles Ave., Niles, IL 60714) to be received by September 12. A color photo of each submission must be attached to the entry 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. Please pay attention to hanging requirements on the Rules and Requirements form and ask ahead if you have questions – Shelley for exhibit (shelley.brucar@yahoo.com 847-921-4364) and Pat Rued for boutique (prued@aol.com 847-267-1407).

All forms and guidelines for the Exhibit, Boutique, Fashion Show, and Silent Auction are available on the FAOF website (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 NSNG meeting. We'll also have volunteer signup sheets - your choice of hanging, taking down or helping during the show. Boutique volunteer requirements are in addition to your volunteer requirements for the exhibit. Please read the entry forms carefully. The due date for entry is September 12. Price tags will be available at the September and October Guild meetings. If you can't make either meeting and need price tags, email or call Pat Rued - contact info above.

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. We are no longer participating in the raffle; therefore if you want to make something to support the guild, the silent auction is the way to go. For questions about the Silent Auction, contact Gretchen (gretchen.alexander@sbcglobal.net 847-998-6040).

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 (suebabbs385@gmail.com 847-446- 5251). This year, Sue is also looking for volunteers (the ones who want a sitting job) to sit at the education table and talk about the guild. Please sign up with her. (See education article p. 5).

Fashion Show – If fashion is your thing, you might want to enter something in the always popular Friday and Saturday fashion shows. Garment descriptions must be emailed to Faye Ryan by October 1 and drop-off is Oct 19-20, as explained on the Fashion Show entry form. Questions about Fashion Show go to Carolyn Seng (csmithseng@yahoo.com 847-825-0836).

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.

Fine Art of Fiber Education Table

Volunteers and Samples

We need volunteers to demonstrate their skills, at the Fine Art of Fiber to show visitors curious about some of the many techniques which our Guild members use. With all the fine art on the walls around us, all activities need to be 'dry', e.g. sewing, embroidery, needle-felting, beading, jewelry-making, kumihimo, or stitching. Please avoid quilting and weaving, as the other two guilds will be demonstrating those.

We also need members who are prepared to simply sit and chat to visitors and tell them about our wonderful Guild. These volunteers are our primary contact with prospective members. All shifts are about 2-1/2 hours long.

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

We also need the loan of samples from Guild workshops etc. to be displayed on our table. Please note that they will be handled by visitors.

Contact Sue Babbs (suebabbs385@gmail.com ; 847-446 5251), if you would like to help.

Not getting emails?

Some of you who have AOL email addresses are not getting some guild mailings because they are going into the spam folder. How to check and see what's there? You can view your spam folder by clicking the Mail menu on the AOL toolbar, and then clicking Spam Folder. Your spam folder will open and display the list of emails designated as spam. For those marked in error, click the button which says This is not spam.

I belong to a list where those with AOL complain that their mail from the list is being designated as spam. Supposedly if you continue to correct the filter, it will get better as time goes on. We hope so. Please let your AOL friends know about this in case they are not getting guild mail. Also let me know if you have a different email provider and are not receiving our mailings. Perhaps I do not have your correct address.

Mary McManus

marym@mcmanusdesign.net

Service

Our Guild provides several ways to help our community. There are many needs and we try to meet some of those needs with our time and talents.

*This summer we met many Tuesdays sewing baby quilts for the Rush Neonatal Center and Stroger Hospital. Check out the Service table if you are able to tie a blanket or 2.

*We sew pillowcases and tote bags for WINGS, a shelter for battered women and children. We also make pillowcases for the YWCA in Evanston who provide safe houses for battered women as well.

*We crochet and knit hats and blankets for the babies.

*We sew lap quilts for Winchester House, a nursing care facility in Libertyville.

*We collect greeting cards for Veterans.

*We make washable sanitary shields and liners for Days for Girls, beginning again in January. We were able to send 129 Basics Plus Kits, 75 Basic kits, 140 heavy flow shields and 297 heavy flow liners to Madagascar this summer.

We will have many kits available at the Service table. We could not accomplish these wonderful projects without you. We are collecting flannel, cotton, fleece, batting, thread and yarn. We are in need of good-working sewing machines too!

Thanks to all who donated books and magazines to sell at the Summer Picnic. A total of \$740.50 was collected. How about that?

Have you cleaned out your stashes this summer? The Freebie table will be open for business at the September meeting.

Service meets every Tuesday, except for Guild Meeting day, at Jeanette Page's home located at 2339 Dehne Rd. in Northbrook.

We have a core of women who help often, but we sure would love to have a few more regulars join us. All are welcome!

Nancy Calandra 847 541-0016

Jan Kent

Workshop Registration

As we head into a new year, it's time to register again! We have another great slate of workshops this year.

At the September meeting, I will be taking registrations. Please be patient and be prepared to wait in line so that I can look at the forms and make sure they are correct. I will take registrations before and after the meeting, but not during the meeting itself or Show and Tell.

Spaces are still available for Jane Sauer in September - don't be intimidated by the word "critique" in the title of the second one—it's just someone else's viewpoint of your work. Jane is a very experienced viewer, and just may have some interesting things to say.

Stephen Pittelkow's marbling workshop was so popular that we scheduled a second session on October 17 (afternoon) and 18 (all day). There are still a few spaces left in that session; his other workshops are full.

There is space in all of the rest of the workshops except April. Registration is available by mail and at each meeting. If you want to make sure there is space in the workshop you are interested in, please send me an email or call.

I hope you find at least one workshop that piques your interest, they are wonderful learning opportunities and of course great ways to meet other guild members.

Sylvia Dresser
sylviadresser@gmail.com
847-945-6095

Mini Workshops

Thanks so much to Lina Spasova for teaching us macrame at the summer picnic. We all appreciated you sharing your talents with us!

Please join us in September for an embroidery workshop taught by Jenny Ross. The workshop will include: basic hand embroidery stitches and sources for more advanced stitches and applications; sampler making and establishing a creative practice based on hand embroidery using a single stitch or many stitches; methods of picking colors and randomizing the colors in a stitched piece. Jenny will be bringing pieces of evenweave fabric and Kona cotton for each participant and a variety of fibers. Participants can bring additional fibers if they would like to try embroidering with them or just have extra to share. If anyone needs a hoop to stitch, they should bring one that is suitable for a 9" x 9" piece of fabric. The workshop fee will be \$15. If you have signed up for the embroidery workshop in January, this is the perfect class to attend to learn or brush up on your stitching.

In October Marcey Pomerantz will be teaching a class on creating a pair of earrings with super duo beads. Supplies will be provided and the fee will be \$15. Feel free to bring your own color choice of beads if you prefer. November will be our members' sale. Reserve your 1/2 table today to sell your finished goods or supplies.

Just a brief reminder on the mini workshops, the classes usually begin about 1 hour after our general meeting to allow people time to eat lunch. If a 2 1/2 day workshop is taking place, the mini workshop will be held in the room across the hall. Payment for the class is taken at the time of sign up. If you are unable to attend the class, the teacher will provide you with a kit of the supplies used. Please contact me at djpotter3@comcast.net or 847-738-9322 to sign up for classes or the member sale, or speak to me at the general meeting. If you have a talent you would like to share in the form of a mini workshop, please let me know.

Donna Koranek

Book Review

Carson Demers, *Knitting Comfortably: The Ergonomics of Handknitting*

There is only one thing I dislike about this book—the title—as I am convinced that anyone who sits and works with their hands needs this book in their own personal library.

Carson, a physical therapist and ergonomics specialist, has written a comprehensive book on sitting, holding your work, lighting, stretching, exercising, working at a computer, and the tools that knitters use—in fact, all about our most important physical tool, our body. Chapters cover such topics as Repetition, Contact Stress, Posture, and Early Intervention. Eyestrain, Knitting Needle type, chairs, arthritis. All come in for their share of Carson's attention.

Illustrations abound—both anatomical drawings and photographs to illustrate such things as proper sitting positions. The only thing I did not find was a photo of the proper place for the cat who is often in my lap when I knit!

The book is available for purchase at <https://www.ergoiknit.com/knitting-comfortably/>. For NSNG members, I will have the book with me at our September meeting if you would like to look at it.

Sylvia Dresser

From Mary Jo Eckhart

To my dear Needlearts family,

Thank you all for your support and caring during my son Tim's health crisis and subsequent death. Your calls, emails, and cards have lifted my spirits. The staff at the hospice in North Carolina felt bad for me that I was so far from home. When I told them of the support and love which I received almost daily from one or more of you, they were very impressed.

Thank you for continuing to be there for me,
Mary Jo

Local Shows

Cynthia Boudreau Textile Design solo show in Gallery II of DuPage Art League for the month of October.

Opening reception is on Sunday, October 8 from 2 to 4 PM

DuPage Art League is at 218 W. Front Street in downtown Wheaton

Hours are:

M-F 9 to 5 PM

Sat. 9 to 2 PM

Closed Sunday (except for reception on Oct. 8)

The show will be an exhibit with fiber fashion and fiber fantasy with items also for sale.

Cynthia hopes many NSNG members can come to reception or stop by during the month of October!

Summer's End, Textiles, Prints and Sculpture.

Barbara J. Schneider

Brushwood Center at Ryerson Woods

August 6, 2017 - September 24, 2017

Artist Talk:

September 9, 6 - 7 pm

The Brushwood Gallery at Ryerson Woods

21850 N. Riverwoods Rd, Riverwoods, IL 60015

224-633-2424

info@brushwoodcenter.org

<http://www.brushwoodcenter.org/Programs/Art/ArtExhibitions/SummersEnd.html>

2017 Annual Project

Time marches on! Are you 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

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First Class Mail