

Loose Ends & Gathered Threads

Newsletter of the North Suburban NeedleArts Guild
September 2018

Perfection is not attainable. But if we chase perfection we can catch excellence.
Vince Lombardi

Past Success and Future Challenges

As artists we look at the world around us differently from most people. After taking Lisa Binkley's eco dyeing class at the Summer Seminar in June, I see shapes, color, and compositions that are just waiting to be joined with fabric. Even when I'm too busy to create, it helps me stay sane to think about and plan future projects. When my kids were little they used to say, "Go create something, you are getting cranky!" This wonderful, shared gift of creativity is our sanity. My friends and I often wonder: "What do people do who don't create?"

I'm very excited to be on this board. We have a really great year planned. We are so grateful for Beth's leadership and for the great work of our outgoing board members.

Thank you also to everyone who made our July picnic a success.

Penny Burns

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.

There is space in all of the workshops except October. 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

CALENDAR

Tues. Sept. 6 9:30 am Socializing, sign up for workshops. At Gloria Dei, Cherry and Pfingsten in Northbrook

9:30 am Lecture Mary Hettmansperger, Mary Hetts free-range artist: finding inspiration

Afternoon: Mini workshop Yarn dolls, Lina Spasova, see p. 6

Afternoon: Workshop: Woven jewelry, Mary Hettmansperger

Wed. Thurs. Sept 5-6 Continuation of Mary Hettmansperger workshop at Gloria Dei

Tues. Sept. 11, 18, 25 10:00 Service Projects at Jeanette Page's, see p. 5

Tues. Sept. 18 10:00 Board meeting at Gloria Dei

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Visit our website: www.nsn.org

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Mary McManus, ed.

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Mary Hettmansperger, Sept. 4-6

Mary is the owner of Gallery 64 in Peru, Indiana. She studied 3D design and metal arts at Indiana University, Indiana Wesleyan University and the University of Northern Colorado. She has taught across the United States and internationally and also authored and illustrated 4 fabulous books on woven jewelry and mixed metal jewelry. She has produced 3 DVDs for Interweave on surface design and her work has been included in several publications. Her work has been shown at private Galleries, SOFA, and invitational exhibits.

Lecture: Mary Hett's Free Range Artist – Finding Inspiration. Mary will share how she finds inspiration from everything that grows, whether in nature, relationships or life itself. Change is the fuel for her creative spirit.

2-1/2 day Workshop: Woven Jewelry

The half day workshop following her lecture will introduce participants to working with fine wire by creating a looped pendant. Using rocks and other beautiful focal point items that Mary provides, you will create a layer of knotless netting using copper and silver filled wire as you become comfortable with her metal weaving technique. You will complete this piece of jewelry in the first half day. In the following 2 days, you will learn a variety of unique surface design approaches using patinas, embossing and colored pencils to create a woven piece of jewelry that reflects your own personal narrative. A variety of cold connections and weaving techniques will give you endless options for assembling and connecting your own work of art in metal. Bring your budding ideas and small personal objects for this amazing woven jewelry workshop and leave with gorgeous jewelry uniquely your own.

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

Akemi Cohn, October 2-4

Akemi was born in Yokohama, Japan and studied traditional Japanese dyeing techniques for ten years under the master, Haru Izumi in Japan. She has an MFA from Cranbrook Academy of Art and has taught at the Art Institute of Chicago, Haystack, Penland, Arrowmont and at the International Surface Design Conference. She has had numerous national and international exhibits and was selected as a scholar in residence by the SEEDS Arts and Education Program in 2016. She has several commissioned works hanging in the Chicago area including the Unitarian Church in Evanston and Loyola University Medical Center, among others.

Lecture: Traces of Journey: From Tradition to Personal Stories. Akemi will share how her ideas often come from nature, such as light and shadow through Japanese shoji screens, flowers, plants, and animals on an urban prairie. She will also explain Boro, a Japanese art form that uses scraps of cloth recreated into beautiful new works of art. Historically, Boro depicts women's devotion, pleasure and love of family by treasuring old kimonos and remnant fabrics.

Workshop: Japanese Boro 2 days

In the workshop, Akemi will provide a kit of various shades of indigo dyed fabrics that you can use, along with any indigo dyed fabrics you may bring from your own stash, to explore simple stitching to create rich imagery. Akemi will lead us through several hand stitching exercises including Sashiko, patching and shredding to assemble beautiful fabrics into a new mode reflecting your own personal story. You will return home with experimental fabric pieces as a guide to more creative Boro projects in the future.

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

Fine Art of Fiber

Fine Art of Fiber exhibit is coming up Thurs, Nov 1 – Sunday, Nov 4. Everyone can have one piece exhibited (more if there is space). Completed entry forms for the exhibit can be given to Shelley Brucar at the September 4 Guild meeting or mailed directly to Chris Deering (7120 W. Niles Ave., Niles, IL 60714) to be received by September 12. A 4"x6" color photo of each submission must be attached to the entry form. Please – make sure your measurements are accurate. We plan how to hang the show based on the measurements you give us. 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). Nona will have volunteer signup sheets at the Sept and Oct guild meetings. Boutique volunteer requirements are in addition to your volunteer requirements for the exhibit. Please read the entry forms carefully. 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.

Hosting the show - All you have to do is volunteer in the show for one shift (two if you have work for sale). We are often short on volunteers; if you can be available, please talk to Nona about an extra shift. And, as always, we welcome volunteers even if you are not exhibiting. We do ask that you remain in your assigned area during your volunteer shifts as that is where you are needed!

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. 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). 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.

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 23 and 25, as explained on the Fashion Show entry form. Questions about Fashion Show go to Faye Ryan (fayeryan1415@gmail.com 847-825-0836).

Something new this year: Boutique jewelry and accessory artists are invited to have your work displayed on a large screen in the auditorium as visitors walk in and out of the Fashion Show. If you are interested in being included, please read the guidelines sheet available on the FAOF website. Contact Cindy Heineman if you have questions about this (cindyheineman@gmail.com 847-579-0300).

Discounted Personal Memberships to CBG - Our Guild has Plant Society membership for 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 for the Garden. Remember this when you renew your Garden membership.

2018 Member Challenge

This year marks NSNG's big 5-0! Let's celebrate our golden anniversary with a new opportunity for creativity. Fifty Shades of Gold is the theme, your inspiration is the scheme!

All members/all levels of experience are welcome to enter a theme related project to be displayed at December's meeting/holiday party. Three lucky winners will receive gift certificates (1st Place-\$100, 2nd place-\$75, 3rd place-\$50) to be used toward a guild workshop of your choice. What a great opportunity to explore your creativity, have fun and maybe even win a prize!

Questions? Contact Liz Zwiener.

Days for Girls Report from the Babbs family

As in 2016, Sue's work on this trip was in relation to the Days for Girls Enterprise, based at the Women's Center at the Anglican Cathedral in Toliara. This year was another great step forward for the Enterprise. When we visited in 2016, we taught many women to sew the kits, but did not have time to address marketing as well.

This year's visit gave us the opportunity to translate into Malagasy the Days for Girls lessons on female health and hygiene. We were then able to train around 35 women, from all parts of the Diocese of Toliara, to go out into the community and teach these lessons to others, and explain the benefits of the Days for Girls washable feminine hygiene kits.

The women were able to practice what they learned in class by teaching at various distributions in Toliara and Fort Dauphin areas. Over 900 women and girls (and a few men) heard the teachings. Over the four weeks, we distributed 437 kits in 13 churches and villages, 6 medical clinics and 1 school. (School exams and vacations meant we could not go into more schools).

Sue was surprised by one of the questions during the teaching week, when the women explained they had been told that they could neither receive communion nor be a chalice bearer when they were menstruating. Bishop Sami explained that there was a custom in some areas of the south that required the women to wear a ribbon around their head identifying them during their periods. After consultation with Bishops Todd and Sami, Sue then led an hour's Bible Study explaining why this was not a view propounded by the Diocese.

At the end of the first week's training, Ms. Harisoa was appointed DfG Assistant Coordinator at the Women's Center for one year. We are hoping that this will enable the Enterprise to grow and many more kits to be distributed. She is a brave young woman, happy to demonstrate the ease of running and dancing while wearing a kit! Reports back from the women, who have had the kits for 2 years, were very positive. They love the fact that the plastic barrier prevents leaks and stains showing through.

We have been contacted by a Toliara business, which is talking of ordering 100 kits a month to be made by the enterprise, which will mean we can offer regular employment to women. If this is successful, we will

then contact other businesses to see if they would like to follow suit.

We were also able to meet with representatives of two UK not-for-profits: Blue Ventures (blueventures.org) and SEED Madagascar (madagascar.co.uk/projects/community-health) both of whom have community health programmes which dovetail nicely with the work we are doing with Days for Girls. SEED also has an embroidery project which sells internationally, and we are exploring the possibility of collaborating with them in relation to the paper bead products that are made at the Cathedral.

Thank you all so much for your prayers and support which made this trip possible! And thanks be to God, our wonderful creator, for the beauty of His people and His world!

Service

After working so hard on the DaysForGirls.org project from January to June, please read the summary of Sue Babbs' trip to Madagascar. We all should be proud of our participation in this valuable endeavor, including your donations of fabric, washing, ironing, cutting, serging, and sewing. We made over 3000 pieces. You are amazing!

Thank you to all who contributed books and magazines for the book sale and to those who distributed the extras to libraries and other guilds. We are grateful for the \$872.00 added to financing the wonderful projects we work on to benefit those in need.

The Freebie Table will be open in September, but we ask that you save your own goodies for the October Guild Meeting. A few members have down-sized over the summer and we have an abundance of items for you to choose from already.

We will have kits available: pillowcases to be given to WINGS, a shelter for battered women and children, as well as Preemie quilts for Stroger Hospital and the Rush Neonatal Center that you can sew at home.

Service meets every Tuesday, except Guild Meeting Tuesdays, at Jeanette Page's home located at 2339 Dehne Rd. in Northbrook from 10-1:00. Lunch is usually served. Please consider joining us as we cut, iron and sew. We will be so happy to have you!

Mini Workshops

September 4—Yarn Dolls— \$10—Lina Spasova

We're never too old to play with dolls. What you bring to decorate your dolls can reflect your interests and even your heritage.

Bring: Solid color yarn for the body (small amounts of 2 or more colors), scissors, yarn needles, sewing thread. A crochet hook can be used to make a hat. Also bring items to use for making the doll "yours." Some ideas are lace, ribbon, rickrack, braid trim, novelty yarn, beads, buttons, and charms. Use your imagination.

October 2—Infinity Fleece Scarf—\$10—Marcey Pomerantz

These neck warmers are quick and easy to create. They make great holiday gifts. You don't have to worry about them falling off as they are a continuous piece. They are comfortable as well as washable.

Bring: A half yard of polar fleece and needle and thread.

Marcey will bring pins, a rotary cutter, ruler and cutting board. She will also have extra fleece.

November—No mini due to Member Sale

December —No mini due to Holiday Party

January 15, 2019—Green: The History of Color—Sarah Ajlouni

February 5—Kumihimo—Cindy Heineman

March 5—Hand Embroidery—Jenny Ross

April 16—To be announced

May 14—No mini due to Potluck

July 10—To be announced

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First Class Mail