

Loose Ends & Gathered Threads

NEWSLETTER of the **NORTH SUBURBAN NeedleArts GUILD** • FEBRUARY 2020



Lyric Kinard discusses fabric selection during her January workshop. Those visible around the table are Janet Rivara (next to Lyric), Valerie Rodelli, Susan Sances, Liz Zweiner, Susan Couch and Phyllis Woloshin. (Photo by Shelley Brucar)

MEETING DATES

(Tuesday meeting followed by 2-1/2 day workshops)

FEBRUARY 4, 5, 6

MARCH 3, 4, 5

APRIL 14, 15, 16

MAY 5, 6, 7

**Summer Seminar:
JUNE 22 - 26**

Summer Picnic: JULY 7



Detail of a charm quilt Ann Wasserman made for her daughter. Charm quilts are made with thoughts of good luck in mind. Each piece is a unique fabric, but if one – and only one – fabric has been used twice, the quilt has a special magic. – From a post on Ann's blog, *Ann Quilts*. See page 4.

Pass on our skills and passions

With cold weather restraints on our 'being out and about', we are so fortunate to have our craft. It can feel quite claustrophobic to be stuck inside. Put a needle and thread in our hands and we are transformed. Gone is the boredom.

I read an article while on vacation about artists in the Yucatan using thorns and thin feathers as their needles and with hand-dyed threads. Just using materials found in nature. As with other civilizations, Mayan women were taught needle arts as young girls. The passing down of skills, techniques, and patterns created an artistic legacy now many hundreds of years old.

This is a reminder to us that we must teach the young people around us whatever skills and techniques someone taught us. We are timelessly bound to that obligation and to their passions and creativity.

– Penny Burns, *NSNG President*



Register now with Susan Kenyon for **Mosaic Art to Wear Mini Workshop**. See page 2.

February Calendar

- **Tues Feb 4: PROGRAM & MEETING** at Gloria Dei
9 am: Socializing, Freebie and Service Tables
9:30 am: Huib Peterson Program – *What Got Me Here*
Noon: **MINI WORKSHOP: Wendy Gray Raven, Mosaic Art to Wear - \$30**
1 pm: Start of 2 1/2 day workshop with Huib Peterson, *Russian Summer beaded necklace*
- **Wed Feb 5 & Thurs Feb 6:** Peterson workshop continues
- **Tues Feb 18:** 10 am – **Board Meeting** at Gloria Dei
- **Tues Feb 11, 18 and 25:** 10 am – **Service Projects** at the home of Jeanette Page

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Visit our website:
www.nsng.org

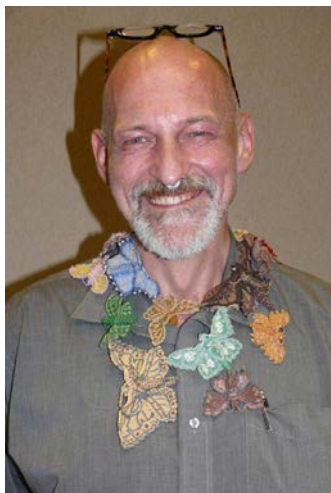
Huib Petersen

• February 4 - 6

Huib was born and educated in Doorn, The Netherlands. Needlecrafts first caught his attention as a child growing up in a small town in Holland. Encouraged by his mom and grandmom and the local needlecraft store owner, he picked up crocheting, knitting, tatting, macrame, bobbin lace, needle lace and embroidery with ease.

In 1995 he moved from Holland to San Francisco, and opened a small arts and crafts workshop and gallery on Nob Hill. Inspired by a chance encounter with 19th century Russian bead work, he discovered the beauty and challenges of designing with beads. He uses different sizes of beads and a variety of traditional beadwork stitches to create sculpted bugs, butterflies, birds, flowers and sea creature in their environment. The result is a unique kind of wearable art that offers the intricacy of embroidery and lace, the depth of a theater set and the durability and brilliance of glass. His work is featured in *500 Beaded Objects* and has been shown at major shows in California.

• **LECTURE: *What Got Me Here.*** A visit with the artist, in which he will tell you about his life and how it brought him here, a man in a mostly woman's kind of world. He will



introduce you to his work with slides and samples as well as talk about what influences and inspires him.

• **2 1/2 DAY WORKSHOP: *Russian Summer:*** A 3-dimensional butterfly rests in a Russian bead lace necklace (shown above). The butterfly is stitched in a diagonal and tubular peyote stitch. This very versatile diagonal stitch is also used for the leaves. In this hands-on workshop, you will learn the basics and uses of peyote stitch. During the workshop, Huib will discuss the many ways this technique can be used for decorative and wearable art. Students are encouraged to find ways to incorporate these techniques in their own artistry and projects. Level: Intermediate/advanced.

Website: petersenarts.com



MINI WORKSHOPS: Please register with **Susan Kenyon** for all mini workshops at the previous month's meeting or contact her by email: slkenyon@aol.com

Feb 4 MINI WORKSHOP: Wendy Gray Raven • Mosaic Art to Wear - \$30
Create two beautiful one-of-a-kind mosaic pendants. Learn the basics of mosaic design using a wide variety of materials including glass, millefiori, stones, beads, buttons, shells, etc. During the two-hour workshop each participant will design and complete a 2 x 1" rectangle and a 1 1/2" square pendant. All materials will be provided including two pendant bases and chains, tools (to be returned to teacher), and adhesive.

March 3 MINI WORKSHOP:
Elizabeth Khoodikians-Guillette
• **Wire Mesh Pendant with Stone - \$12**

In this two-hour class you will be shown the technique of enclosing a stone in wire to create a pendant. All supplies are included.



Elizabeth will bring pliers for students to use and return to her at the end of class.



April 14
MINI WORKSHOP:
Susan Kenyon
• **Solomon's Knot Crochet Stitch - \$10**

Bring a medium weight light color yarn. It should be a smooth yarn and not a novelty yarn. Bring a hook size H or I.



Show & Tell

Marcia Hartnell's (left) garden confetti fabric collage was inspired by a workshop by Ann Loveless in Michigan. It is mounted and framed. Her jacket is adapted from a CNT pattern, Easy Three-sy Jacket. A Kwik Crazy pattern was used for the blocks with machine embroidery outlining the sections. **Camilla Krueger** is wearing a hat and batwing vest using nunofelt fabric that she made. The collage cards were started in the Mirka Naster class, "Composing in Small Spaces." Pieces of fabric were placed and arranged onto fusible interfacing (cut to size) then ironed down. At this point additional fabric, stitching, beads and buttons were added. A fun daily project!



Bill Keller belongs to a group on Facebook and Instagram, "The Color Collective," which sends out a new quilt block pattern and 12 different solid fabrics each month. It encourages trying new techniques and getting out of your color comfort zone. His hand-stitched shirt uses reverse applique. He painted circles on the fabric, sewed knit scraps behind each circle, then cut out all but 1/4" border from the center of each.

Every quilt has a history - and a story

Vintage quilt block patterns can give us ideas for new projects; a name on a signature quilt may lead to finding a new branch on a family tree; and stories of a quiltmaker – and how she made her quilt – can inspire us to document the history of cherished family quilts, as well as ones we are working on now.

Guild member **Ann Wasserman** gives us all this inspiration and more on her blog: **“Ann Quilts.”** Ann restores and repairs quilts and vintage clothing. Her posts are about a wide variety of quilts and needlework that come across her path. Her focus is not only on the unusual patterns and designs, but the history and stories that go with them, many with photos provided by the family.



Her well-organized and archived blog also includes quilt care and repair techniques, estate sale finds, buttons and embroidery, vintage clothing and costuming, art quilts and other inspiration she uses to make her own quilts.

Ann’s blog serves as a diary of the many people she has met, the stories they shared and the adventures that have come her way.

Enjoy her tour through textile history.



- The maker’s diary entries are included in the two posts about this Snowflake quilt. It’s very rare and special to find diary documentation to tell a quilt’s story. It was made by Grace C. Powell in 1938-9 and given to her granddaughter Elaine on her 16th birthday. The current owner is Grace’s great-granddaughter and Elaine’s niece who brought the quilt to Ann. She suggested adding the inscription shown above. Ann’s photos and text take us through the steps of repairing the area with the scorch mark and how she added the stitched patch.



- A crazy quilt from 1906 with delightful and fanciful embroidery, made by a woman who loved her needle and thread.

Do you have a favorite blog or online source for inspiration? Contact Jan Harrington with details for future issues of our newsletter.

Service focuses on Days for Girls products

The service group is in full swing working on Days for Girls products. We meet every Tuesday – except for Guild meeting day – at Jeanette Paige’s house at 10:00. Each month we bring kits to the Guild meeting and many of you contribute by taking kits home to sew.

Around the world, girls and women resort to using rags, mattress stuffing, banana leaves, feathers, and even cow dung to manage their menstruation. Days for Girls provides a safe, beautiful, washable, and long-lasting alternatives she can count on, along with vital health education.

Days for Girls began in 2008 when Founder and CEO Celeste Mergens was working with a family foundation near Nairobi, Kenya where she began assisting an orphanage. She had a nagging question: “What are girls doing for feminine hygiene?” Seeking an answer, she contacted a director of the orphanage. His reply, “Nothing. They wait in

their rooms.” Celeste came home to America and created Days for Girls. Their motto is *“With your help, we can reach Every Girl. Everywhere. Period.”*

Back in 2014, guild member Sue Babbs and her husband visited Madagascar, one of the poorest countries in the world. They discovered the need for sanitary kits for girls and women. Girls miss school – and are thus less well educated: women can’t work and thus there is no food for the family.

In September 2015, Sue heard about Days for Girls, and in January 2016, NSNG started sewing DfG kits, and in 2017, NSNG formed the Northbrook, IL Days for Girls Team. This means we are on the DfG website, **daysforgirls.org**, and many people have now joined NSNG because of our connections with DfG.

– **Bettie Westcott**

Marilyn Moore • March 3-5

Marilyn's first love is basketry, and basketry-related jewelry. Since 1979, she has taught for guilds, conferences, conventions and craft schools around the country and been featured in many publications. After living in Seattle, Washington for many years, she has recently moved to Iowa City, IA, to be closer to members of her family. Her most recent work is focused on working with wire in new and unique ways.

Using textile techniques including basketry, knitting and crocheting she has developed a style that is recognizable by its intricacy, and color blending, and her work has been shown in galleries around the country.

• **LECTURE: *Wire as Fiber: Where Technique Meets Inspiration, Color, Form and Texture.*** These are just three of the things that have influenced Marilyn's work over the years. Explore the use of color by cultures, and artists who use it as a means of expression.

• **2 1/2 DAY WORKSHOP: *Wire as Fiber: An Integration of technique and inspiration.*** If you like to play with fire, combine that adventurous spirit with the experience of working wire cloth and wire. Experiment with textile techniques and a



variety of wires, as well as different meshes of copper, bronze, and stainless steel wire cloth. Students will explore the process of inspiration and technique using fine colored

wires, which can be purchased from Marilyn or brought from your own stash. Included in the class will be the use of the torch as a tool for preparation of the materials. Wire cloth and wire will be used to create baskets and jewelry to excite the senses. Students may wish to get involved in a large project or produce a number of samples with technique in mind.

Twining with fine colored wires, knitting and crocheting with wire, working with wire cloth, embellishing with beads and pearls, will make an exciting adventure for students. Beginners and more experienced students will find something to inspire and send them on new creative journeys.

Website: marilynmoorewired.net

• A second workshop has been added on March 24 - 26.

Jackie Abrams • April 14-16

Jackie has been a basketmaker since 1975, when she first apprenticed to an 81-year-old traditional white ash basketmaker. Since 1990, she has been exploring the possibilities of contemporary basketry. She exhibits her work at galleries and museums, and has been included in numerous books. Her work is in many collections, most notably the Renwick Gallery of the Smithsonian Institution and the National Museums Scotland. Her community development work in Africa has inspired her work and her life.



• **LECTURE: *Baskets, Travels, Experiences.*** A humorous and thoughtful look at the influences in both Jackie's art and life, reflecting over 40 years of growth, inspiration, and interdependence. Included are images from her travels in the United States, Australia, and Africa, as well as the colors, textures, and people who had an impact on her work

• **2 1/2 DAY WORKSHOP: *Bias for All.*** Paint and create your own basket materials using acrylic paint on heavy cotton paper, a very user-friendly material. Learn about surface design techniques and tools, while applying colors and creating textures.

Then investigate the possibilities of bias plaiting, a wonderfully versatile technique. Weave



baskets that are symmetrical or sculptural, with graceful curves or angular shoulders, with corners, feet, double walls, or covers. Learn about the rules that can certainly

be broken, and how to apply this technique to other flat materials.

Both beginning and more advanced basket makers are welcome to explore the possibilities. Experimentation and laughter are all encouraged. There will be enough materials for weaving in both the class and at home.

Website: jackieabrams.com



Liz Alpert Fay • May 5 - 7

Liz earned a degree in Textile Design from the Program in Artisanry at Boston University in 1981. After graduating, she spent seventeen years creating art quilts, exhibiting nationally and in Japan in such shows as Quilt National and at the American Craft Museum in New York. Her quilts can be found in both private and corporate collections, as well as in many publications including *The Art of Quilt* by Robert Shaw.

In 1998 Liz became intrigued with traditional rug hooking, and since then has been actively pushing the medium in new directions. Besides creating colorful hand hooked rugs with cut outs and irregular edges, she also creates large-scale contemporary hooked art works and installations. These works continue to be purchased for private collections, and selected for juried shows and invitational museum exhibitions. From 2001-2014, Liz was Co-Chair and Artist Director of Newton Hooked Art Shows where she actively promoted innovation in hooked art and produced annual juried shows.

Her work can be found in numerous collections including, the White House, Washington DC; The Museum of Arts and Design, New York and private collections in the US, New Zealand and Canada.

• **LECTURE: Liz Alpert Fay/Art and Inspiration.** This presentation takes you along on Liz's artistic journey from inspiration to completed artwork. Her large-scale works are a contemporary approach to one of our country's oldest textile techniques, traditional rug hooking. Examples of both commissioned work and personal projects will be shown

• **2 1/2 DAY WORKSHOP: Rug Hooking: Painting with Wool.** Come try your hand at painting with wool. Using fabric strips created from beautiful hand dyed and colorful wools, students will design and create a small artwork that takes them through all the steps used in creating a full sized rug. The group will explore the use of different textures, patterns, and types of hooking materials. She will discuss the history of rug hooking and examples of both contemporary and antique rugs will be shown. Sources for materials and the variety of equipment available will also be discussed. **Website: lizalpertfay.com**

• **A POTLUCK LUNCH follows the May program.**

Summer Seminar: June 22 - 26

Bryant Holsenbeck • 5 days, June 22 - 26

Wrapping Wild: Making animals out of recycled materials

Bryant Holsenbeck is a sculptor and environmental artist with roots in basketry. She is also an installation artist who utilizes the "stuff" our society has used once and thrown away. Holsenbeck has taught at Arrowmont, Penland, Haystack and in Australia. Her book, *The Last Straw: A Continuing Quest for Life Without Disposable Plastic* published in 2018, chronicles her work and environmental concerns. **Website: www.bryantholsenbeck.com**

Lisa Binkley • 3 days, June 22 - 24

Stitches in Time: Developing a Daily Fiber Art Practice

As an experienced fiber artist, you probably have some favorite materials and techniques. This workshop is an opportunity to delve deeper into the materials and stitches that you love and also to explore materials and techniques that are unfamiliar or not-yet-appealing to you. It is also an opportunity to explore some of the many ways to develop a daily art practice that can broaden and deepen your artistic life and bring you some of the many benefits of having a daily practice. Explorations include ways to conceptually structure your practice and ways to physically structure the fruits of your practice. Exercises will be in the format of stitches, written words, and some sketches.

Website: lisabinkley.typepad.com

• **Registration is not yet open for Summer Seminar. STAY TUNED for cost and registration information.**

Summer Picnic • July 7



July 7 MINI WORKSHOP: Rachel Nador

• **Needle Felted Mini Gnomes - \$25**

After the NSNG picnic, in this two-hour class, students will create an original needle felted mini gnome. All the materials will be provided for the project including different types of wool in a wide variety of colors and textures. Rachel will also bring her teaching supplies including needles, foam work surfaces and more.

NSNG Board • 2019 - 2020

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Loose Ends & Gathered Threads

The newsletter of the North Suburban NeedleArts Guild is published 8 times per year, monthly except for June, July, August and December.

- A digital copy is sent out via email 1 or 2 weeks before each meeting. It's also available on our website. Printed copies (B&W only) available on request.

The next issue will be sent out at the end of February.

Please contact Newsletter Editor **Jan Harrington** with updates, news, images or corrections: janqharrington@gmail.com

NSNG Membership & Announcements

The purpose of the North Suburban NeedleArts Guild is to foster the art of needlework and to encourage a high standard of design, innovation, and technique in various forms of fiber arts. New ideas and techniques are developed through lectures, workshops and other group gatherings. Members are encouraged to show their own talents at meetings.

- **APPLY FOR MEMBERSHIP:** Please contact membership chair Janet Rivara for an application. Annual membership dues are \$50.
- **MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY:** An annual printed directory includes names and contact info for all members, calendars, NSNG Bi-Laws and other info.
- **GUESTS ARE WELCOME:** Guests and friends are free the first time they attend, after which they must join to continue attending.
- **PARKING NOTE:** Please be reminded that while attending an NSNG event at Gloria Dei, we are asked to park in the back lot, east of the church. But if needed, PLEASE park in the handicapped parking spaces in front.
- **WORKSHOP REGISTRATION:** Contact **Jenny Ross** with questions about workshops led by our speakers. If you signed up for a workshop and cannot attend, let Jenny know so she can offer your space to another member.

Visit our website: www.nsng.org