

Loose Ends & Gathered Threads

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



Mary Krebs Smyth created many original works for the Women's Journeys in Fiber.

Embrace a New Year of Creativity

At the start of the New Year and a new decade we are facing many challenges. My hope is that we, as artists, find a peaceful balance through our creativity.

For those of you who don't know, former member Mary Krebs Smyth passed away at the end of December. Some thoughts from friends include: "She had a passion for creativity. Her perspective and projects were totally unique and thought provoking. And then of course there was her art, totally original, the originality almost hiding the wonderful skill and mastery of the materials. She was a pioneer in her field, a feisty spokeswoman for women and the artistic perspective." We can all be inspired by her creativity.

We have an exciting year of lectures and workshops coming up. I look forward to seeing you all and sharing our work.

– Penny Burns, NSNG President

MEETING DATES

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

JANUARY 14, 15, 16

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



Alli Leone during the gift swap at our Holiday Party. (See pages 3, 4 and 5.)

January Calendar

- **Tues Jan 14: PROGRAM & MEETING** at Gloria Dei
9 am: Socializing, Freebie and Service Tables
9:30 am: Lyric Kinard Program – *Elements of Art*
Noon: MINI WORKSHOP: Marcey Pomerantz,
• **Infinity Fleece/Fabric Scarf - \$10** (Bring fabric, needle and thread. Register with Susan Kenyon.)
1 pm: Start of 2 1/2 day workshop with Lyric Kinard
- **Wed Jan 15 & Thurs Jan 16:** Workshop continues
- **Tues Jan 21:** 10 am – **Board Meeting** at Gloria Dei
- **Tues Jan 21 & 28:** 10 am – **Service Projects** at the home of Jeanette Page (see page 6).



Bring a half-yard of polar fleece or light weight fabric to make an infinity scarf at the January 14 mini workshop.

What's Inside

Jan, Feb Meetings	2
Holiday Party	3, 4, 5
Over the Moon Challenge	4
Service Projects	6
Online Inspiration	6
Mar, Apr Meetings	7
May, Summer Meetings....	8
NSNG Board	9
Announcements	9

Visit our website:
www.nsng.org

Lyric Kinard • January 14 - 16

Lyric is an award-winning artist who was 2011 International Association of Professional Quilters Teacher of the Year and is the author of the book *Art + Quilt: Design Principles and Creativity Exercises*. She has written extensively for *Quilting Arts Magazine*, appeared on *Quilting Arts TV*, and *The Quilt Show* with Alex Anderson and Ricky Tims. She teaches around the world and online.

In her past life she was a musician, earned a BA in English Literature, and has also formally studied architecture. She currently lives in Cary, NC with her husband and some of her five children.

- **LECTURE: *Elements of Art*.** Kick-start your creativity and learn about the basic elements and principles of good design. Learn why some colors fizz while others explode. This lecture will help you learn a few simple tools from the artist's kit that will help you take your work, whether traditional or contemporary, to the next level.
- **2 1/2 DAY WORKSHOP: *Practical Design Applications, a master class for textile artists*.** You've studied basic design and have a good grasp of the elements and principles of art. Now learn practical ways to apply this knowledge



to your work as a textile artist. This workshop includes: Warm-ups to help you bypass roadblocks; exercises to generate unique abstract design ideas; objective analytical skills as they apply to design and composition and finally, professional presentations for mounting and framing your textiles will be practiced and explored.

Website and link to her blog: lyrickinard.com

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, tating, 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. 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**



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 inch rectangle and a 1 1/2 inch square pendant. All materials will be provided including two pendant bases and chains, tools (to be returned to teacher), and adhesive.

- Please register with Susan Kenyon for mini workshop.

Holiday Party & Potluck



Susan Kenyon crocheted her reindeer sweater. The eyes are courtesy of her phone placed in the front pocket.



Ann Cohen and Idele Lazar before lunch.



Wine was not served with lunch, but was a popular item in the gift swap! Just ask Linda Tomkow.



Barb Maneck, Lu Betcher and Marlene Kuypers.



Susan Sances with her 'Over the Moon' entry. *(More on page 4.)*



NSNG members enjoyed a delicious potluck luncheon, with everything from fresh salads, casseroles and pizza to homemade desserts and candy. Our annual Holiday Party on December 3rd was organized by Jane Brown.





Over the Moon Challenge

Once again, the Annual Member Challenge was a highlight of our December holiday party! This year's theme, 'Over the Moon' inspired so many beautiful and clever creations.

Our amazing participants were: Sarah Ajlouni, Nadine Buck, Stana Coleman, Barbara Eich, Nona Flores, Marcia Hartnell, Bill Keller, Marlene Kuypers, Beth Polonsky, Linda Tomkow, Susan Sances, Ann Wasserman and Bobbye Weisgerber.

First Place (\$100 workshop gift certificate) was awarded to Bobbye Weisgerber, Second Place (\$75 workshop gift certificate) to Stana Coleman and Third Place (\$50 workshop gift certificate) to Nadine Buck.

Many thanks and congratulations to everyone for participating and sharing your talents. We hope even more of you will be inspired to join us next year!

– Liz Zwiener

Attendees cast ballots for their favorites. First Place was awarded to Bobbye Weisgerber for "Waiting for Superman."



Nadine Buck took 3rd place for her beaded "Blue Moon" necklace. Her statement: "On the night of the Blue Moon the people of Mars landed there in spaceships and conquered the golden worm people who left in quite a hurry to find another place to call home."



Stana Coleman's fun art quilt, "Over the Moon" took 2nd place. Moon references included everything from the Moon Landing, *The Honeymooners*, *Moon River*, *Moon over Miami* to Moonshine and Moon Pie!



Fine Art of the Steal

Jeanette Page steals the yarn bowl during our gift swap. Did she get to keep it? No. The bowl went home with Frances Krueger-Jackson, who proudly holds it up below. Jeanette and Marcia Hartnell led the festivities.





NSNG service group delivered blankets and pillowcases to the Evanston YWCA in December.

NSNG Service Projects

Our service year is over and the items we have been working on since spring have been delivered. Jeanette's basement is a cleaned up and organized and ready for our next project. We will begin working on Days for Girls on January 21st. All are welcome to join us on Tuesdays, or take something home from the monthly Guild meeting to work on.

Service meets every Tuesday at 10 am (except for Guild meeting days) at Jeanette Page's home, 2339 Dehne Rd. in Northbrook. **Please call Jeanette at 847-564-1057** to let her know you are coming.

Thanks for all your work and have a great new year.

– **Bettie Westcott**
pawcom124@gmail.com
 360-455-9710



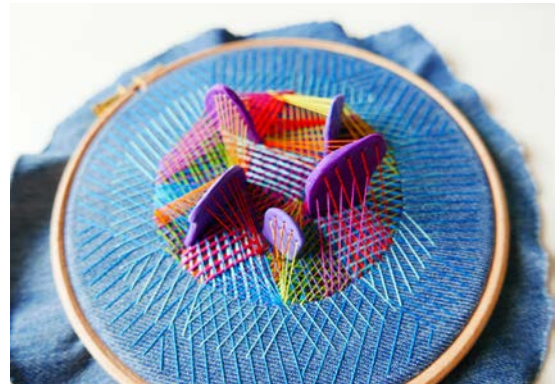
Cindy Oppenheimer, Marcia Lee Hartnell, Bettie Westcott, Barbie Eich, YWCA rep and Laurie Frey inside the Evanston YWCA. (Photos courtesy of Laurie Frey)

Online Inspiration

Most of us have been inspired by something online. Pinterest, Instagram, websites and blogs all offer an abundance of new ideas, designs and projects.

Beth Polonsky discovered a unique embroidery artist on the website **Colossal**. Dubbed the "Tate Modern of the Internet," Colossal is an online gallery of visually spectacular artwork showcasing a wide range of creative disciplines, including fiber arts.

Justyna Wołodkiewicz creates embroidered works (see images below) that extend beyond the fabric within the hoop. The Poland-based artist molds polymer clay into tiny colorful pieces that she positions at various angles and binds with multi-colored thread. To see her work, visit www.thisiscolossal.com and search "clay embroidery." Or click on the CRAFT button for many more new and original ideas.



(Photos from Colossal website)

- **Mirka Knaster**, our November workshop leader, writes a blog called "Exploring the heART of it." Click on BLOG at her website: mirkaart.com

Do you have a favorite blog or website you'd like to share with our members? Do you host a blog? Contact Jan Harrington (janqharrington@gmail.com) with details for future issues of our newsletter.

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**

March 3 MINI WORKSHOP: Elizabeth Khodikians-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.

• Please register with Susan Kenyon for mini workshops.

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

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.



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

Summer Seminar: June 22 - 26

Bryant Holsenbeck • 5 days, June 22 - 26

Cost and registration information to come.

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

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• Information to come regarding a second workshop during the Summer Seminar.

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.

WORKSHOP REGISTRATION

- Please register with **Susan Kenyon** for all mini workshops: slkenyon@aol.com
- 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: jenny60060@comcast.net

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 January.

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.

Visit our website:
www.nsng.org