

Loose Ends & Gathered Threads

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



Small stitching samples Penny made in the Mirka Knaster workshop in January. These can be placed in a card with a frame opening.



Change is good

Have you ever made something just for yourself? Something that no one else will see? Do you think “*this looks wrong but no one will ever know?*” Do you then make the changes you know needed to be made?

Sometimes I have to talk myself into making those changes. So many hours and hours spent thinking, designing, and making. I have to remake that curve that went wonky or that line of embroidery stitches that didn’t go quite right.

I’m always happiest when I make those changes. Otherwise every time I look at that piece I see the flaw. I have many pieces no one has ever seen. They sit around my studio space and inspire me.

– Penny Burns, *NSNG President*

MEETING DATES

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

MARCH 3, 4, 5

APRIL 14, 15, 16

MAY 5, 6, 7

(Potluck lunch May 5)

Summer Seminar:

JUNE 22 - 26

Summer Picnic:

JULY 7

PROGRAMS AND WORKSHOPS for 2020-2021 will be announced in the April Newsletter

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Registration opens at the May meeting for members who have paid next year’s dues.

March Calendar



Register now for Mini Workshop: **Wire Mesh Pendant with Stone.**
See page 2.

- **Tues Mar 3: MEETING & PROGRAM** at Gloria Dei
9 am: Socializing, Freebie and Service Tables
9:30 am: Marilyn Moore Program – *Wire as Fiber: Where Technique Meets Inspiration, Color, Form and Texture.*
Noon: **MINI WORKSHOP:** Elizabeth Khoodikians-Guillette
Wire Mesh Pendant with Stone - \$12
1 pm: Start of 2 1/2 day workshop with Marilyn Moore,
Wire as Fiber: An Integration of technique and inspiration.
- **Wed Mar 4 & Thurs Mar 5:** Moore workshop continues
- **Tues Mar 10, 17, 24 and 31:** 10 am – **Service Projects** at the home of Jeanette Page
- **Tues Mar 17:** 10 am – **Board Meeting** at Gloria Dei
- **Tues Mar 24 - Thurs Mar 26:** Second Moore workshop

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Visit our website:
www.nsn.org

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.

• **Second workshop dates are March 24-26.**

Website: marilynmooreswired.net

MINI WORKSHOPS

Please register with **Susan Kenyon** for mini workshops at the previous month's meeting or contact her by email: skenyon@aol.com. Cash is preferred or pay with a check made payable to the workshop leader.



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.



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.

Show & Tell

Lu Betcher

The inspiration for my scarf started with 2 small balls of a very pretty iridescent pink yarn from the January Freebie Table. Over the next 2-3 weeks I worked my way through thrift stores to find garments to compli-



ment that yarn. The final materials I used were picked from a deconstructed purple scarf, deconstructed ribbing edge of a gold sweater, and green yarn from a deconstructed vest. To add to the length of the scarf I added in Noro yarn from my stash.

The edging of the scarf came from a small ball of variegated purple and red yarn from a thrift store. Rather than weave in the yarns ends where I joined colors, I couched them down using yellow yarn from a deconstructed child's sweater. Then I added handmade yarn buttons from the same sweater to create a closure look where I joined the two ends of the scarf.

I so enjoyed the process of starting with an inspiration yarn and then hunting down other materials. I will continue to work this way when creating future wearables.

A huge thank you to all who donate their bits and pieces left over from their creations. You never know who you might inspire just by placing a small item on the free table!

More than just a Service Table!

We have our Service Group to thank for the Freebie Table! Guild members are invited to bring in fiber-related items for others to take home and enjoy. Whatever is left at the end of the meeting is sorted by the service group, taking what they can use, and then donating the rest to a thrift store.

Service is currently working on Days for Girls products. Many of you picked up projects from our service table to work on at home. Your help is greatly appreciated. Bring them to any Guild meeting, or to our Tuesday morning gatherings.

Upcoming service meetings will be at 10:00 at Jeanette Page's home on **March 10, 17, 24 and 31.**



Marla Florio

I am working towards a completely me-made wardrobe. I would say my wardrobe is about 60% me made right now. I made the pants, shirt and sweater I wore at our Feb meeting.

For the sweater I used yarn from a friend and yarn from my stash. I designed the pattern. I knit the body side to side to make



vertical stripes and the sleeves wrist to shoulder for horizontal stripes. I added buttons along each side. I think the shortness of the body of the sweater is good for layering.

The necklace is made up of

bits of stuff I had: a metal wing from a bug making kit, a metal spring from an old wooden clothes pin and a coin from an old necklace.

I like to look around and see what I have and make something. I so enjoy our Guild presentations. Each one inspires me to expand my creativity.

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, 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 created 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 meeting.**



Lisa Binkley • June 22-24

Lisa holds a B.S. in Textiles & Design from the University of Wisconsin-Madison and a Master's in Urban Planning from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee. Formerly a public policy analyst, she has maintained an active fiber art studio since 2000 and has been teaching since 2007. Her award-winning artwork has been selected for national and international exhibitions. Lisa and her artwork have been featured on television, in internationally-distributed books and magazines, and in many local publications. Her art is represented in public, private, and corporate collections. Lisa and her husband, illustrator Ed Binkley, have two young-adult children and live in Madison, Wisconsin.



• 3-DAY WORKSHOP: *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



Bryant Holsenbeck • June 22-26

Bryant 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.

• 5-DAY WORKSHOP: *Wrapping Wild: Making Animals Out of Recycled Materials.*

This class is a chance to gather all those bits and pieces of fabric, all that yarn on the top shelf, all the "great stuff" you have been saving for a rainy day. Using coiling, wrapping, random weave, sewing and binding, students will make four-legged animals and then birds

out of found and gathered materials. Students will be encouraged to develop their own techniques as we make animals we see in the world around us, or those from around the world that inspire you.

Website: www.bryantholsenbeck.com

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5-DAY WORKSHOP FEE with Bryant Holsenbeck is \$380.

3-DAY WORKSHOP FEE with Lisa Binkley is \$220.

Contact Jenny Ross at jenny60060@comcast.net for registration forms and information.



Member's News

Quilt restoration workshop

Join Guild member Ann Wasserman and her colleague, Martha Spark, for a fun and informative hands-on workshop **July 23 - 25 in Cedarburg, Wisconsin.**

This 3-day workshop is geared for quilt lovers, owners and makers who want to learn more about restoring and caring for their quilts properly. Some hand sewing experience will be helpful, especially appliqué, but not required.

Slide lectures and presentations will include: philosophies, techniques, and supplies used in restoration, conservation, and preservation; fabric history and quilt dating; and museum standards methods of storage, display, and safe cleaning.

Hands-on sessions will cover supplies and stitches used, and participants will practice sewing on vintage and antique quilt fragments which will be provided.

Participants are invited to bring one or more quilts for triage, a show-and-share discussion of how and when to use the various techniques.

The workshop will take place from 9am to 5pm in Ye Old Schoolhouse Quilt Shop, 318 Green Bay Rd, Cedarburg, WI. (Note: the classroom is only accessible by stairs.)

3-day workshop fee is \$300, which includes 3 lunches on class days, LOTS of handouts, restoration specialty fabric samples and other restoration-related goodies.

A special hotel rate is available at Comfort Inn & Suites, 1415 Port Washington Rd, Grafton, WI, (262) 387-1180.

For more information and to register for the workshop, go to annquilts.com/RestorationWorkshop or email Ann Wasserman at annquilts@comcast.net.

"Quilters" on stage

The Steel Beam Theater in St. Charles, IL is putting on a production of "Quilters - A Musical Play" – the story of a pioneer woman and her daughters dealing with the struggles and rewards of frontier life. The play runs April 3 - 26, 2020.

There will also be a gallery exhibit at the theater featuring a collection of small quilts and fiber art by Guild member Kathy Steere, "Abstract, Traditional and all In-between." To see Kathy's work online, go to katesfunart.com.

For information and tickets to the play, go to their website: steelbeamtheatre.org or call 630-587-8521.

If you would like our members to know about a show or exhibit featuring your work, contact Newsletter Editor Jan Harrington at janqharrington@gmail.com.



Guild members were deeply engaged during the bead necklace workshop in February. Julie Rivera (left) examines Laura Antolin's project.



Donna Koranek (left) works side-by-side with Janet Sumner. Instructor Huib Peterson (below) gave participants a lot of individual help. (Photos by Jane Brown)



NSNG Board • 2019 - 2020

President	Penny Burns	312-590-1646	pburns@jbosh.com
1st Vice Presidents	Joan Bratton	630-209-0608	joan@bratton.com
	Janet Sumner	847-312-3473	j.sumner@att.net
2nd Vice President	Luan Wold	847-644-4705	luanwold@gmail.com
Secretary	JoAnn Baumann	847-835-4454	joann@jdesigns.org
Treasurer	Sylvia Dresser	847-945-6095	sylviadresser@gmail.com
Membership	Janet Rivara	847-707-1739	janet.rivara@gmail.com
Member Challenge	Liz Zwiener	847-382-7262	edz417@gmail.com
Publicity	Frances Krueger-Jackson	773-784-8766	fran@franniesfelts.com
Workshop Registrar	Jenny Ross	847-970-9360	jenny60060@comcast.net
Mini Workshops	Susan Kenyon	847-680-3162	slkenyon@aol.com
Hospitality	Susan Miller	847-975-9680	orchid1245@gmail.com
Special Events	Jane Brown	224-234-2773	jkbrownfi@gmail.com
Advisor	Beth Polonsky	847-707-8561	beth30154@gmail.com
Service	Jeanette Page	847-564-1057	pagequilter@gmail.com
	Marcia Hartnell	847-714-6594	scootsrambo@aol.com
Webmaster	OPEN		
Newsletter Editor	Jan Harrington	847-965-6935	janqharrington@gmail.com
Fine Art of Fiber	Nona Flores	847-869-1362	ncflores52@gmail.com
	Bill Keller	773-989-9946	bkforge@sbcglobal.net
	Valerie Koppenhaver	847-808-8217	koppenhaver@comcast.net

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 the first week of April.

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