

# Loose Ends & Gathered Threads

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

## Creating and connecting

We hope this newsletter finds you well and creative. As you will see here, your Board has come up with some wonderful ideas to keep us connected and creative.

I've been in my studio all morning choosing fabrics, shiny needles, and colorful threads for an ongoing project. I seem to be more focused than I usually am. That sure is a good thing! I'm making small sewn works to give as gifts. Choosing the fabrics and colors with each person in mind makes me feel connected to each of them. It also feels good to be using fabrics from my stash – which is just too much.

Please send Jan Harrington photos of whatever YOU are working on. Let's stay connected by sharing our work. Stay home and stay healthy.

– Penny Burns, *NSNG President*

## Show & Tell

Our April and May meetings are canceled, but Show & Tell will continue in the newsletter.

Send me pictures and stories of your projects and where you find inspiration.

Thank you for contributing! - Jan Harrington, [janqharrington@gmail.com](mailto:janqharrington@gmail.com)



Janet with her daughter, granddaughter and the new quilt today. Lia (in pink) as a toddler.

### Janet Rivara

My 11-year-old granddaughter lost her baby quilt when travelling last Thanksgiving. While it isn't the life essential it used to be, Lia was very sad. I had helped her mother, my daughter Jessica, make it the first time in 2008. Apparently, I instructed her to overbuy – no surprise there – because she had enough of the fabric stashed away for us to recreate it! Jessica pieced it and I machine quilted it, right before my self-quarantine began. Everyone is happy!



Need a project idea? Let's create together at home. We are offering two ideas for a summer Guild challenge. Choose one or do both!

• **NEST.** As a noun or verb. We are all nesting now, in the comfort of our own homes.

• **HOME.** What does it mean to you? Many titles come to mind: *Home is where the heart is. Home sweet home. No place like home. Home school!*

• The prize will be the joy of sharing our creations **IN PERSON** when we can resume regular meetings!

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Visit our website:  
[www.nsn.org](http://www.nsn.org)

# Show & Tell



## Jan Aaron

I created "Margaret Lisa Garden" in the Lisa Binkley workshop last February. While she is a fictional person, the name of the piece is in memory of my mother Margaret, and our teacher Lisa. The only work left to do is to bead around the dark edge as well as sew the rest of the dragon/damselflies to the piece. Then it is off to Artist Frame Service for the finishing touch.



A reminder to others who were in the **Midnight Garden beading workshop**: I am coordinating the entries and hanging for the 2020 FAOF show. We'd like to see as many pieces as possible. All of the completed pieces will each need a separate entry so must be done by FAOF entry deadline (Sept 12). They will also require the \$5 entry fee (see page 7).

– Jan Aaron, [quilterjan1425@gmail.com](mailto:quilterjan1425@gmail.com)

## Donna Sweeney

I made this baby quilt for my youngest son's first child who is due in June. I was inspired by a quilt with house blocks that I saw online. I used graph paper to figure out the pattern. Log cabin blocks are on the back.



## Donna Koranek

The piece I created for the 2018 Women's Journeys in Fiber theme, Time, was selected for the steampunk show, The Funk Machine, at the Jackson Junge Gallery in Chicago. The exhibit was meant to run through May 10 but now can be viewed online [j2gallery.com/exhibitions](http://j2gallery.com/exhibitions). Many thanks to all the Guild members for your encouragement and support!

Blueprint, [myblueprint.com](http://myblueprint.com), which used to be Craftsy – has made all classes free until April 9th!



Sadly, we cannot see **Jackie Abrams** (our scheduled speaker for April) in person. Jackie is online and recently posted: *During this time of "social distancing," Sam, my elderly studio assistant, and I are still making things. It is what we do.*

[jackieabrams.com](http://jackieabrams.com)



# Show & Tell



## Kathy Steere

“Water Glass” was painted in Susan Brubaker Knapp’s September 2019 workshop using the material and paints she provided. The reference photo was taken at a restaurant and provided plenty of challenge with all the reflections and distortions in the glass. After pondering how to quilt it for a few months, I decided to keep it simple and not detract from the painting. A second layer of batting enhances the 3D effect of the front of the glass and the straw.

## Sharon Malec

I started as a quilt maker more than 20 years ago and along the way became interested in felting and spinning for use as surface design. I really enjoyed spinning, but as a result produced so much yarn that I needed to find another outlet for it. This led me to free-form crochet and finally tapestry weaving.

With the roots piece, I crocheted the frame as a project to use up some scrap yarn, not knowing how I might eventually use it. Several weeks later I took a class at the Morton Arboretum about drawing roots. When I got home I realized my drawing would fit in the frame I had made. I needle-felted the root, based on my drawing, and used a piece of hand-dyed wool fabric for the background.

The elephant tapestry evolved from a quilt I had made many years ago. Using a photograph of the original quilt, I made a new drawing which would fit my loom. Then I colored the drawing to make it easier to follow while weaving. I already had some hand spun



yarns that were suitable, but blended and spun additional yarns to match the colors in the drawing. Tapestry requires that you must first calculate the amount and spacing of the warp and how to approach the design, since you need to start at the bottom and work up. It takes time, but is a very satisfying process as the image is gradually revealed.



## Maria Florio

I used deconstructed kimonos to make the purse (left). Our Sew Club has found a wonderful source of kimonos in Schaumburg called Tangerine Mountain, [tangerinemountain.com](http://tangerinemountain.com).

Several of us also belong to NSNG. Our focus is mainly clothing, creative arts and home dec sewing. Our last face-to-face meeting was about UFOs. Currently I am knitting a sweater using yarn my friend Elaine hand dyed.



Share your work on our **Facebook Group page!** If you are on Facebook, search North Suburban NeedleArts Guild and ask to join.

I will continue to include your Show & Tell items in the newsletter. Send to Jan Harrington, [janqharrington@gmail.com](mailto:janqharrington@gmail.com)

## Jan Harrington

This quote is from the website, *Diary of a Quilter* by Amy Smart, [diaryofaquilter.com](http://diaryofaquilter.com). The title of the post is *Sewing in Times of Uncertainty*. Grace Coolidge was the wife of President Calvin Coolidge, a very interesting first lady, who found sewing and knitting to be soothing. Can we relate?

- **Ellen Lindner**, a quilt artist and teacher, is passionate about making fabric into art. She says, "I make art for the pure joy of doing so!" [adventurequilter.com](http://adventurequilter.com)

- **Kathy Loomis** is a former newspaper journalist who writes thought-provoking posts on a myriad of topics. "I make abstract art -- usually with a needle but sometimes with a pen, brush or camera, scissors and glue, pliers and wirecutters, whatever is there." Check out her article on her search for the best tutorials for making face masks (March 27). [artwithaneedle.blogspot.com](http://artwithaneedle.blogspot.com)

The next three websites will lead you to discover many artists:

- **TextileArtist.org** is currently hosting a community stitch challenge. The site is a free online resource designed to inspire you and develop creative confidence.



- My favorite blog right now is by **John Katz** who writes about life on a farm in rural New York. [bedlamfarm.com](http://bedlamfarm.com) His wife Maria Wulf, is a quilter and artist who raises sheep and sells yarn made from their wool. Her blog is [fullmoonfiberart.com](http://fullmoonfiberart.com). Both write thoughtful and uplifting posts about animals, nature, life and our new reality.

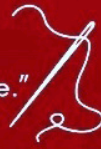
Hope you will find inspiration exploring some of these sites and blogs!

"Everyone should be taught to sew, not merely for the sake of making something, but as an accomplishment which may prove

*a stabilizer in time of perplexity or distress.*

Many a time when I need to hold myself firmly, I have taken up a needle - a sewing needle, some knitting needles, or a crochet hook. Whatever its form or purpose, it often proved to be as the needle of a compass, keeping me to the course."

- First Lady Grace Coolidge



## Pat Niffenegger

I'm having a great time prowling the web for artists to recommend.

- **Chris Roberts Antieau** is mostly self-taught because she was told by an art teacher how terrible she was. She now owns folk art galleries in Santa Fe and New Orleans. [antieaugallery.com](http://antieaugallery.com)

- **John Christopher Borrero**, I bought one of his assemblage art pieces at the One of Kind Show. [johnborrero.com](http://johnborrero.com)

- **Jane Callender**, indigo and shibori. [janecallender.com](http://janecallender.com)

- I collect ceramics from 2 artists I found at Penland School of Craft in North Carolina: **Ronan Peterson**, [ninetoepottery.com](http://ninetoepottery.com) and **Holly Walker**, [hollywalkerceramics.com](http://hollywalkerceramics.com)

- **Sondra Dorn**, also a former Penland artist, does inspiring paper/paint pieces. [sondradorn.com](http://sondradorn.com)

- **Sha Sha Higby** makes sculptural costumes. [shashahigby.com](http://shashahigby.com)

- **Mandy Pattullo** is a UK textile artist I found in *Selvedge* magazine, one of my favorite magazines. She is doing a lot of boro-inspired art, which I am also inspired by.

[mandypattullo.co.uk](http://mandypattullo.co.uk)

- **Els van Baarle**, textile art from the Netherlands. [elsvanbaarle.com](http://elsvanbaarle.com)



- **Diane Savona**. Textile work (above) that combines art and archaeology. [dianesavonaart.com](http://dianesavonaart.com)

- Assemblage artist **Michael Demeng**. I took one of his classes in Wisconsin and he was the inspiration for our summer seminar re assemblage. [michaeldemeng.com](http://michaeldemeng.com)

# Community Service Projects



Anti-Ouch Pouches before filling (left) and completed above. They are easy to make and provide welcome relief.

## Anti-Ouch Pouches for cancer patients

As a member of the American Sewing Guild (ASG), I knew about the Anti-Ouch Pouch which helps women who have breast cancer surgeries. Deon Mass, who designed the pouch, had breast cancer and is also a member of the ASG in Illinois. My sister, a survivor, and a friend who lost her battle were able to use the pouch after surgery to shield their arm from the side of their body as well as a protector from the seat belt in the car.

I found the breast cancer center at Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital Cancer Center since my husband is receiving treatment for his cancer. I have sewn 52 for them, delivering them weekly to Jennifer Tepper, a Nurse Navigator. This hospital cares for 200 breast cancer patients a year. When I met Jennifer and delivered the first 27 pouches, she asked me to start a group to continue bringing the pouches to the hospital because they stopped coming and they are very helpful to the patients. Highland Park Hospital also has a breast cancer treatment center.

These are not available for sale so they are a blessing to anyone who has had surgery to assist with the discomfort after surgery.

Guild members are welcome to check with their nearest cancer center to see if they will take them. Jennifer Tepper is the Nurse Navigator for Breast Cancer at Northwestern Lake Forest Hospital Cancer Center, phone contact is 847-535-6401.

**The Anti-Ouch Pouch only requires 1/2 yard of fabric, 6" of velcro, and fiberfill.** For instructions, visit the American Sewing Guild website: [asg.org](http://asg.org) and click on *resources*, then *giving back*. Scroll down to see instructional YouTube video and download a PDF by clicking on highlighted Anti-Ouch Pouch.

– Robin Rivera, [joybyrobin@mac.com](mailto:joybyrobin@mac.com)



The Anti-Ouch Pouch is a pillow that hangs from the shoulder, fitting snugly under the arm to cushion the area after breast surgery or radiation treatments.

## NSNG Service Group

We have stopped our weekly meetings. Most of us are over 60 after all. Still we are trying to continue our work with Days for Girls. If you want work please contact Jeanette Page (708-902-0087) and find a way to pick up some supplies. You might also consider contacting your hospital or other medical facility and see if they would use homemade masks. There are now multiple sites online with instructions. Please stay safe and we will see you on the other end.

– Bettie Westcott  
[pawcom124@gmail.com](mailto:pawcom124@gmail.com)

## Homemade masks?

The need for masks and protective gear for our front-line health care workers and first responders is of great concern. Many are heeding the call and making masks.

As a Guild, we are not endorsing any particular mask. It is up to you if you want to make them for yourself or others. It's best to check in your area if masks are being accepted.

Blogger Kathleen Loomis, [artwithanneedle.blogspot.com](http://artwithanneedle.blogspot.com) has researched mask tutorials and posted this information on March 27: "Masks seem to come in two general designs. One is a simple rectangle, with pleats at the sides to gather in the vertical fullness that goes down over your chin. The other is a "duckbill" -- think a bra cup over your lower face -- that is shaped with a vertical curved seam from your nose down. The duckbill apparently provides a little more protection but requires a little more sewing. Some designs have interior pockets that can be stuffed with additional filtering materials, such as paper toweling or tissues.

The good news, according to one of the videos I watched, is that firmly woven cotton alone will filter out about half of the virus-sized particles. And that regular non-woven interfacing, sandwiched into a mask, provides an excellent additional filter."

– Jan Harrington

**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.* Fee is \$220.**

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.

Exercises will be in the format of stitches, written words, and some sketches.

• **Website: [lisabinkley.typepad.com](http://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.* Fee is \$380.**

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](http://www.bryantholsenbeck.com)**

**July 7 MINI WORKSHOP: Rachel Nador**

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

Our annual summer picnic will be held on **July 7**. After the 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.

• To register for mini workshop, contact **Susan Kenyon**, [slkenyon@aol.com](mailto:slkenyon@aol.com).



# Fine Art of Fiber • November 5-8



## FAOF Great Wear Fashion Show

The Great Wear Fashion Show has been widely enjoyed for many years. Not only is it a beautiful and inspirational compilation of a variety of fiber techniques but it also is a wonderful outlet for participating artists to sell their beautiful creations.

The Fashion Show Committee is asking for help from all participating Guilds in FAOF. There are three of us who coordinate the show with a number of dedicated people who work to assist us with recruiting and scheduling models, moving of garments, and back stage work on the day of show. We need more help in two areas.

For the past several years we have experienced a much smaller number of participating artists and have had to make numerous calls and emails to recruit interest in applying for the show. We have changed the number of items required for submission from 3 to 1, 2, or 3 so that people will not feel pressured to produce more than they are comfortable doing.

First, we are asking all Guilds to actively promote artist participation in the Great Wear Fashion Show for November 2020. The entry form can be found on the FAOF website and has detailed instructions with dates and deadlines. This is not a juried show. It is a member show and everyone who makes garments is encouraged to apply.

Also, we would like to ask each guild to ask their membership for people who may be interested in helping with the Great Wear Show. For many years there have been three of us who have coordinated this show.

The areas that we cover are: obtaining entries, two days of model fittings, order of the fashion show and commentary. A number of people help us in these areas, but the main work is done by the three co-chair coordinators. We would like anyone who is interested to join us. See what we do and do it with us, with the end goal to lighten our load and then take over when the time comes that we are ready to step down.

We are available to answer questions or concerns throughout the process and we thank you for your help in keeping this part of FAOF alive. We would hate to see it go away for lack of participation.

• **Kay Lange** (630-747-4281) [kayclange@aol.com](mailto:kayclange@aol.com)

• **Virginia Reisner** (630-530-2723)  
[vreisner@sbcglobal.net](mailto:vreisner@sbcglobal.net)

• **Faye Ryan** (773-263-8076)  
[fayeryan1415@gmail.com](mailto:fayeryan1415@gmail.com)

The Fine Art of Fiber will take place November 5 - 8 at the Chicago Botanic Garden in Highland Park. All members of NSNG are invited to submit work for the show, as well as participate in the Boutique. Updates for this year include:

• **FAOF exhibit submission fee.** Due to increased costs and the addition of moving and storage fees, the Committee has instituted a \$5 per item non-refundable submission fee for exhibit entries with the 2020 show. *(This does not include items for sale in the Boutique.)*

This submission fee policy has been reviewed and approved by the boards of NSNG and Illinois Quilters Incorporated (IQI). This money goes to the FAOF operating budget; collections are subject to the 10% fee assessed by the Garden.

This practice is in line with the submission process for other local shows and galleries and our price is significantly lower than those typically charged. A member's 1st choice submission will be guaranteed acceptance in the show per guild bylaws; acceptance of additional items are subject to available space; no refunds for entries not accepted. Checks should be made out to the Fine Art of Fiber and must be submitted with other required forms and information by **September 12**.

• **Boutique group table.** Members are encouraged to submit items to the Boutique--even if you only have a few items you would like to sell, complete the Boutique application form. If accepted, Boutique organizers will find space to display your work. You will need to do volunteer sessions as defined in the Boutique rules.

Information and submission forms *(available in June)* can be found on the Fine Art of Fiber website: [fineartoffiber.org](http://fineartoffiber.org)

– **Nona Flores**, [ncflores52@gmail.com](mailto:ncflores52@gmail.com)

## Deborah Fell • September 1 - 3

Deborah is a full-time studio artist committed to the art quilt medium. She is a professional member of the Studio Art Quilt Associates and Art Quilt Network. Her art focuses on abstract, organic shapes while using surface treatment such as dyeing and painting fabric, photography and reclaimed materials. Deborah has been a professional educator for over 30 years. Besides teaching at-risk high school students in a public high school setting, she has taught various art workshops at national symposiums, community college and continuing education.



Deborah obtained a Masters degree from Northern Illinois University as well as graduate work at the University of Illinois, University of New Hampshire and a fellowship at Northwestern University.

• **LECTURE: *The Thread That Runs Through It: Hope.*** Deborah will focus on stories of hope that have inspired her work over the past 30 years.

• **2 ½ DAY WORKSHOP: *Creating the Illusion of Depth in Art Quilts.***

This technique-based workshop will use mixed media materials along with fabric and paper to create the illusion of depth in a two-dimensional plane. You will create small studies using these techniques. Specifically, overlapping, placement, size, value, and focus, will be areas of concentration using the collage approach. Suitable for all levels.

• **Website:**  
[deborahfell.com](http://deborahfell.com)



**Registration opens in May for the  
Sept 2020 through May 2021 Workshops.**

Members must first return their signed membership renewal form.

**Direct membership questions to Janet Rivara,**  
[janet.rivara@gmail.com](mailto:janet.rivara@gmail.com), 847-707-1739



## Robin Atkins • October 6 - 8

Robin is a nationally known bead artist, traveling widely to teach, lecture and research beadwork for over 30 years. She has authored 8 beading books, including her latest, *The Complete Photo Guide to Beading*, as well as numerous magazine articles. Robin enjoys all types of beading. She especially loves to sew beads on cloth, creating wall art and quilts, as well as sculptural pieces.

Because she learned to embroider while in grade school, and has enjoyed many periods of passion for thread embroidery in her lifetime, it was natural to develop an instant rapport with bead embroidery. However, it was the beads that freed her from patterns and printed designs, allowing a very positive development in her work.

• **LECTURE: *How to Get Going.*** Robin will regale you with stories of her life-long discovery of the world of beading.

• **2- DAY WORKSHOP: *Im-***

**provisational Bead Embroidery.** You will be making a small piece of bead embroidery, about 4 square inches or less, which you can make into a small pouch, applique on a large bag, frame, applique to clothing, sew into a quilt...whatever you wish. The key to having fun with the improvisational concept is to work with materials that excite you. They don't have to be in your color comfort zone. Let your inner child have a say in your choices. It's best if you don't plan your project in advance. Just gather a few of your favorite things and see what happens!

• **Website:** [robinatkins.com](http://robinatkins.com)





## 2020 Speaker & Workshop

### ***Karen Wilson • November 10 - 12***

Karen began embroidering in her youth and was self-taught, after initial guidance from her mother. In summer, 2013, she pursued formal education in the field and earned a Certificate in Technical Hand Embroidery from the



Royal School of Needlework (RSN), located in Hampton Court Palace in Surrey, United Kingdom. Following this intensive full-time coursework, she continued her studies with RSN tutors at satellite campuses in the United States from 2014-2019 to fulfill all requirements for her WSN Diploma in Technical Hand Embroidery.

Karen is knowledgeable in the following embroidery techniques: applique, blackwork, canvas shading, canvas work (needlepoint), counted cross stitch, crewelwork, free-style surface work, goldwork, silk shading (thread painting) and whitework pulled and drawn thread. Karen currently lives in Galena, Illinois, where she is a sixth-generation member of two families who settled there between 1834-1855.

• **LECTURE: 60 Days of Stitching at the Royal School of Needlework.** Karen will share highlights of her 2013 summer at the Royal School of Needlework and subsequent studies toward her RSN Diploma in Technical Hand Embroidery. You will experience a “day-in-the-life-at-RSN” from her presentation and learn about creating original embroidery pieces from the designing-to-stitching-to-mounting phases.

• **2-DAY WORKSHOP: Goldwork Autumn Leaves Sampler.** This is a beginner-level, traditional goldwork workshop. You will use metal threads to embroider a stylized autumn



leaves sampler inspired by woven Persian palace floral tapestry designs. An embroidery kit with stitch guide instructions and ready-to-stitch Dupioni silk and muslin founda-

tion on stretcher bars will be supplied. The design area is 4 x 5." The finished embroidery is suitable for mounting on an 8 x 10" board and framing with or without a mat.

• **Website N/A**

*See pages 10 & 11 for 2021 Speakers & Workshops*

## NSNG Board for 2020-2021

The 2020-2021 Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the following slate of officers:

- President - **Luan Wold**
- 2nd Vice President, Programs - **Maggie Weiss**
- Member Challenge - **Susan Kenyon**
- Mini-workshops - **Elizabeth Khodikians-Guillette**
- Special Events - **Tricia Baldwin**

As protocol rules, we are obligated to take nominations from the floor. As we cannot meet due to Covid 19, we will take nominations by way of email. You can contact any of the committee members by April 10.

Voting will take place online following that date to be completed by April 14. We are exploring the use of Survey Monkey to do this.

*Respectfully submitted,*

**Beth Polonsky**, [beth30154@gmail.com](mailto:beth30154@gmail.com)  
**Rhonda Newman**, [rhondanewman@gmail.com](mailto:rhondanewman@gmail.com)  
**Ann Wasserman**, [annquilts@comcast.net](mailto:annquilts@comcast.net)

## Workshop Registrations

Refunds have been issued for the canceled March workshop, the April Workshop and the May workshop. If you have not received a refund or have any questions about these workshops please contact Jenny Ross.

Registration is still open for **Summer Seminar** (see page 4). There is space remaining in both workshops. To register, you need to return the registration form with full payment to Jenny Ross. Download the form at our website, **NSNG.org** (Click on *Summer Seminars* – bird image – on the home page. Scroll down to bottom for link.)

**Contact Jenny Ross with questions.**

Email: [jenny60060@comcast.net](mailto:jenny60060@comcast.net)  
Phone: 847-404-9673. Please leave a message if she does not answer the phone so that she can get back to you.

**NOTE: Registration for the Sept 2020 - May 2021 workshops will open in May.**

Members must first return signed Membership Renewal Form to Janet Rivara, 2300 Chestnut Ave. #206, Glenview, IL 60026

**Direct membership questions to Janet,**  
[janet.rivara@gmail.com](mailto:janet.rivara@gmail.com), 847-707-1739

## Shelley Brucar • January 5 - 7

Shelley says that her work is inspired by nature – mountains, water and forests – and she believes the tactile nature of fabric makes it the ideal medium for rendering landscapes and seascapes. In addition to dyeing, painting and screening, she uses image transfer, threads, mixed



media and other surface design elements – anything that the piece demands, going wherever the design takes her.

- **LECTURE: *The Rules of Weaving and How to Break Them.*** Shelley will explain why “*there are no mistakes*” in this art form and how to let your creativity flow.
- **2 ½ DAY WORKSHOP: *Freeform and Embellished Weaving.***

The first ½ day of class you will learn how to make your own loom. After that, it’s all unrestricted fun! Use your hand-made loom, fabric strips, different yarns, ribbons and embellishments to create a beautiful scene or abstract art.

- Create a simple, portable loom
- Find design inspiration from photographs and nature
- Learn some basic weaving techniques and tools
- Try out creative techniques and materials to add dimension and interest
- Learn how to finish the edges of your work
- Discuss ideas for hanging your finished piece
- **Website: [ShelleyBrucar.wix.com](http://ShelleyBrucar.wix.com)**



## Cecelia Campochiaro • February 2 - 4

Cecelia grew up in a family of artists and has been knitting since she was 12. Her professional work is to develop finely calibrated machines that inspect computer chips, something that requires precision on par with counting a gauge swatch. While seeking simple knitting projects to take with her on business trips, Cecelia “unvented” a simple way of knitting in which complex-looking fabrics “just happen”. This discovery led to mountains of swatches, months of work, and the publication, in 2015, of her groundbreaking book *Sequence Knitting: Simple Methods for Creating Complex, Reversible Fabrics.*



- **LECTURE: *Sequence Knitting, Making Marls and Creative Journeys.*** Cecelia will explain her process; how her unique background in science and the arts led to her insights; and about the innovation process in general.

• **2 ½ DAY WORKSHOP: *Introduction to Sequence Knitting/Exploring Marls and Color/Combining Sequence Knitting and Color to Make Extraordinary Fabrics.*** Students will spend the first ½ day being introduced to sequence knitting, a mathematical approach to stitch patterns created by Cecelia that can be used to create different fabrics. You will create swatches to get a feeling for the range of possibilities and understand how you can use sequence knitting in your own work. Day 2 will focus on exploring marls and color. Learn how to design and make beautiful and complex marled fabrics from fine yarn, including choosing yarns and colors to make pieces and sequences of marls. Students will make swatches for both color and hand. On Day 3 students will learn about how textures, colors, fiber and gauge work together in handknitting. The class will look at and make different samples to see how trade offs in these different areas affect final results.

- **Website: [ceceliacampochiaro.com](http://ceceliacampochiaro.com)**



**Christine Mauersberger**  
• March 2 - 4

Christine is an American artist who produces complex mark-making narratives in multiple media: paintings, embroidery, and installation works. Her work is featured in private and public collections and has been exhibited and published internationally including The Millenium Court Arts Centre in Ireland and in the Biennale du Lin in Quebec, Canada. She has taught and lectured at numerous locations from throughout the USA and Canada, to Switzerland. Christine has been the recipient of numerous fellowships and grants, a Creative Workforce Fellowship in Cuyahoga County, Ohio, a Windgate Craft Artist Fellowship, and the Ohio Arts Council Award of Individual Excellence for a second time. She lives and creates in her native Cleveland.

• **LECTURE: *Stitching An Art Practice.*** Christine will discuss the process of finding one's voice in their own stitching practice.

• **2 ½ DAY WORKSHOP: *Exploring Memories Through Mark-Making.*** Participants will engage in playful mark making techniques in a variety of media. You will take inspiration from autobiographical memories to create hand-bound books using paper, fabric, inks, printmaking techniques, cyanotype, and indigo. Participants should bring personal ephemera to add to the books. We will assemble all these elements and use a traditional Japanese stab-binding technique to create the finished book.

• **Website: [christinemauersberger.com](http://christinemauersberger.com)**

**Valerie Goodwin • April 6 - 8**

Valerie is a mixed media fiber artist and architect. Most of her work is inspired by a love of aerial views of landscapes and cities. Her art has moved through various stages from traditional quilting to an interest in abstract expressionism and, more recently, work inspired by real and imaginary landscapes and cities. Valerie received degrees in architecture from Washington University and Yale University. Her award-winning work has been widely published and exhibited. Currently, she teaches architectural design at Florida A & M University.

• **LECTURE: *A Dialogue Between Quilting and Architecture.*** Valerie focuses on the common ground between architecture and quilting: shape, composition ordering systems, color, texture and pattern.

• **2 ½ DAY WORKSHOP: *Favorite Places.*** Using a fun and simple series of painted and collaged mixed media techniques, you will create a mixed media fiber art map. The instructor will guide you through a series of steps that will provide opportunities to learn about design while giving you the freedom to experiment within a structured framework.

*NOTE: Because this class will require students to bring a map of their chosen favorite place, some planning and communication with each student will take place before the workshop.*

• **Website: [valeriegoodwinart.com](http://valeriegoodwinart.com)**



**Ellen Lindner - May 4 - 6**

Ellen is a talented quilt artist and teacher who is passionate about the art of quilt making. Known for its strong contrasts and vivid colors, her art has been shown throughout the United States and beyond, and has been published in several magazines. Ellen has been seen on Quilting Arts TV, where she taught some of



her techniques. She's also written two books and several magazine articles. Her work is very diverse, ranging from pictorial still-lives to modernist abstracts. Although Ellen primarily employs conventional fabrics, she also uses items like window screening and produce bags. She works in a freeform collage style, while borrowing heavily from traditional quilting techniques.

• **LECTURE: *Confessions of a Fabric Whisperer.*** Join Ellen in an amusing accounting of some of the wacky things she's done over the years, some of them successful and some of them resulting in "rough drafts". She'll share with you why even the unsuccessful ones are useful and why she fearlessly embraces experimentation.

• **2 ½ DAY WORKSHOP: *Design Your Own Nature Quilt.*** This class will help take the fear out of design. Using your own nature photo, you'll learn how to interpret it in fabric. Multiple group and solo exercises will give you the skills and confidence you need to start your own design. A raw edge collage technique will ensure maximum flexibility and speedy results.

*NOTE: No artistic skills are needed, but artistic courage is required!*

• **Website and link to her blog: [adventurequilter.com](http://adventurequilter.com)**

# NSNG Board • 2019 - 2020

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1st Vice Presidents	<b>Joan Bratton</b>	630-209-0608	joan@bratton.com
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Member Challenge	<b>Liz Zwiener</b>	847-382-7262	edz417@gmail.com
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Workshop Registrar	<b>Jenny Ross</b>	847-404-9673	jenny60060@comcast.net
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Hospitality	<b>Susan Miller</b>	847-975-9680	orchid1245@gmail.com
Special Events	<b>Jane Brown</b>	224-234-2773	jkbrownfi@gmail.com
Advisor	<b>Beth Polonsky</b>	847-707-8561	beth30154@gmail.com
Service	<b>Jeanette Page</b>	708-902-0087	pagequilter@gmail.com
	<b>Marcia Hartnell</b>	847-714-6594	scootsrambo@aol.com
Webmaster	<b>OPEN</b>		
Newsletter Editor	<b>Jan Harrington</b>	847-965-6935	janqharrington@gmail.com
Fine Art of Fiber	<b>Nona Flores</b>	847-869-1362	ncflores52@gmail.com
	<b>Bill Keller</b>	773-989-9946	bkforge@sbcglobal.net
	<b>Valerie Koppenhaver</b>	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 in May.**

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

Visit our website: [www.nsn.org](http://www.nsn.org)