

Loose Ends & Gathered Threads

NEWSLETTER of the **NORTH SUBURBAN NeedleArts Guild** • MAY 2020

Creating virtual gatherings

While we continue our isolation, spring emerges. Even while we are paused in so many ways, life must move forward, and the Board has been working hard to plan for the upcoming year. We have decided to go virtual for the 2020/2021 year for our general meetings and workshops. Ideally we would like to have a Zoom meeting every month with our usual agenda.

Join us for our first Zoom meeting on **Tuesday, May 5th at 9:30 am.** We will be voting on the new nominees for the Board. The nominating committee did a fabulous job. See page 2 for the list of nominees, as well as Zoom 101 written by Bill Keller. We are excited to continue bringing you wonderful programs and sharing our work.

– Penny Burns, *NSNG President*



Need a project idea? Let's create together at home. Here are two ideas for a summer Guild challenge.

- **NEST.** Interpret however you like.
- **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. Homeschool!*
- **Share your work at our May Zoom meeting!**



Show & Tell

Nona Flores

I finished this quilt top about 2 am on Easter morning. Robin Pickens' design 'Beanstalk' was on the cover of a recent issue of *Quilt Moderne*, so I went to her website and found this pattern 'Toward the Sun' which I just loved. Her versions featured a large print from her own fabric lines. I had recently bought a large print by Kaffe Fassett (I usually don't care for them) and thought it was perfect for this design. I wanted to do this abstract floral design in perky bold colors as a cheerful counterpoint to gray spring weather.

• *More Show & Tell inside!*

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Bryant Holsenbeck workshop

Visit our website: www.nsn.org

Zoom with our Guild on May 5!

We hope to see everyone at our first Zoom meeting on **Tuesday, May 5 at 9:30 am**. Have your projects ready to share during our Show & Tell time. **Bill Keller** is our host and has kindly written the following **"Zoom 101"** with tips for using this virtual tool:

It is easier if you pre-install the application on your device. For a phone go to your "app store" and look for Zoom and install. You don't need to sign up for an account unless you want to do your own meeting. Yes you can use this to talk with friends and family too. It is possible to just click on the link in the email and access the meeting via a direct web interface in your browser too. If all else fails go to zoom.com and click the "join a meeting" button near the top right. You will need the meeting ID from the email.

When you are offered a chance to enter your name, please do so. Don't type iPhone or Bob's Ipad (unless you are Bob and have no last name), makes it hard for others to figure out who is talking.

Zoom will connect to the meeting, you need to allow video and sound by clicking yes on your device. It will take a moment to connect. You should see other members on the screen. Near the bottom left are two icons to control your microphone and camera. If they have a red slash through them, we can't see/hear you.

It is good etiquette to have your microphone muted if you are not speaking (red slash visible). Just press down on the space bar to momentarily unmute and speak. If everybody leaves their microphone turned on, there would be

too much background noise to hear anyone speak. If you can't use good etiquette, the host may mute for you.

Near the upper right of the screen are two icons, one is a grid of 9 squares, this controls your view. You can select to see a large single image of who is active. Hopefully they are actively speaking to the group and not their dog barking or phone ringing (this is when they should be muted). Press the icon again and you are able to see a grid of people (Brady Bunch view). The number of people you can see is dependent on what device you are using. Computers can usually see 25 people at once, I pads can show 9, I phones maybe 3 at once. The bigger your screen the more you can see. Click the arrow on the right side of your screen to see more.

Near the bottom of the screen is a button for participants, it will open a window on the right that shows who is in the meeting. If you hover your mouse over your name, you can mute yourself here as well. The more icon will allow you to change the name displayed in your picture. If it says "Bob's Ipad" under your picture, please change it to your name. The host is busy running the meeting.

Also near the bottom of the screen is a chat button, you can open a chat window to text, either privately to another attendee, or to everyone. Meetings get out of control with everyone blurting out and talking over each other. Use chat to talk privately with your friends or to say "hello" to everyone in the meeting.

– **Bill Keller, bkforge@sbcglobal.net**



NSNG Board for 2020-2021

The 2020-2021 Nominating Committee is pleased to announce the following slate of officers to be voted on at our May 5 meeting:

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

Respectfully submitted,

Beth Polonsky, beth30154@gmail.com

Rhonda Newman, rhondanewman@gmail.com

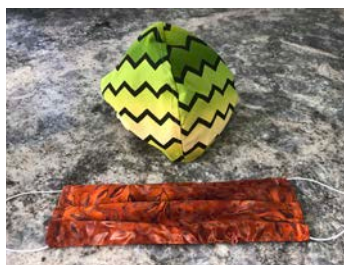
Ann Wasserman, annquilts@comcast.net

Membership Renewal Time!

In keeping with the New (decidedly NOT) Normal - your NSNG membership chair has a new (old) name. While **Janet Rivara is now Janet Tuzzolino**, it's the same old me. Some things do remain the same, though. It is time to submit your membership renewal forms and dues. Please print the 2 page pdf that was sent with this newsletter. Complete and sign the form and mail with your check. My mailing address is listed on the form. I look forward to hearing from you!

- Please contact me at my new email, **jmtuzz@gmail.com** with questions or if you need a form.

Show & Tell



Linda Norby

Back in January, I came upon a yarn sale and bought a lot of yarn. This was totally out of character for me because I always design first and then buy the yarn I need. I am lucky to have that yarn now because I have completed two small tapestries, one of which is for the Silent Auction. Now I'm starting a larger one.

I was also lucky to have taken home fabric to wash and iron for the Days for Girls project. I borrowed some of that fabric from the Guild (I'll replace it!) and have made over 40 masks for family, friends, a community food pantry, and a rehab facility.

That's how I've been keeping busy and engaged.



Barbie Eich

I have been making fabric masks, mostly for relatives and elderly friends. I always have new ones to give away and will continue to sew them, as I know all will be appreciated.

Bulletin Board

• **Shari Pontillo** has a friend whose late husband had a gorgeous tie collection. She would like to commission someone to make her a vest using some of those ties. If you are interested in connecting with her friend to make a vest, please contact Shari at 847-767- 2949 or email sharilynn@twistedfiberstudio.com.

• **Jenny Ross** has a large bin full of upholstery and curtain fabric that was donated to a Lake County Face Mask Group that cannot be used to make face masks. If you are interested in the fabric, contact Jenny at 847-404-9673 or email jenny60060@comcast.net.

• **NSNG Service Group.**

Just a reminder that if you need something to do, **Jeanette Page** has kits for lap quilts and pillowcases. Contact her to make arrangements to pick them up at her house. Call her at 847-564-1057 (home) or 708-902-0087 (cell).

• **Masks for Advocate Lutheran General Hospital.**

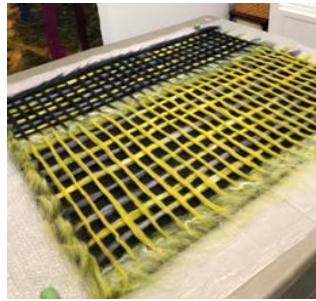
I'm sure many of you are making masks. If you would like to donate any, I can pick them up from you and deliver to the hospital. They prefer the ones with fabric ties, rather than elastic, and will be used by support staff. Please contact Jan Harrington, janQharrington@gmail.com.

Are you looking for supplies or help with something?

Do you have a message to share with the Guild?

Send your notices for posting on this **Bulletin Board** to Jan Harrington, janQharrington@gmail.com

Show & Tell



Marcia Hartnell

This quilt is called 'Front Porch' from Jan Patek Quilts, Inc. 2013. The original was a Block of the Month designed for needle turn applique. Since that is not what I do I converted it to fused applique. I've had the pattern a while and since I had the time I finished it including the quilting on my regular machine.



Cynthia Boudreau

These are new ponchos based on the technique learned during Marjolaine Arsenault's workshop from a year ago. I find laying out the linear design almost meditative and really takes my mind away from the daily news, as long as I'm not listening to NPR while working, which I usually do. Felting, being a bit physical, also helps on the rainy days when you can't get out to take a walk! Thank goodness I have such a splendid stash of roving and silk!

Beth Polonsky belongs to 'Bad bitches of Embroidery' Facebook Group. Robin Pearce recently posted the following 'scientific fact' on their page:

"Arts are important for developing critical judgments based on a sound knowledge of a variety of contexts; judgments about cultural values, cultural history, aesthetics, quality, craftsmanship and fitness for purpose. Side benefits to the employer: those that participate in the arts have lifelong benefits in health, well-being and life satisfaction."

Join our Facebook Group! If you are on Facebook, search North Suburban NeedleArts Guild and ask to join.

Contribute to our SHOW & TELL PAGES!

Send photos of your project, along with the story you would share if you were presenting it in person. Are you finding it hard to create right now? Tell us what you ARE doing to find comfort during this unusual time. Reading? Cooking? Gardening?

Email images and text to Jan Harrington,
janqharrington@gmail.com



Making creatures from the “stuff” of our lives

Wrapping Wild: Animals of all kinds.
A virtual workshop with **BRYANT HOLSENBECK**,
an environmental and textile artist.
(Exact dates, times and fee to be announced)

This is a workshop about making textile sculptures out of the STUFF of our everyday lives. Nothing bought, nothing ordered—only what you can find! It is a time to pull out your old socks, your ripped and stained T-shirts, the long unworn clutter at the back of your bureau drawers. Help your partner out by using their old ties and shoelaces, suspenders and more.

It is time to make space in our lives. Let’s use our hearts, and our hands and clean out our closets at the same time. I will lead you through a series of exercises and show you some simple techniques that you can use to transform the ordinary into extraordinary sculptures. Our challenge will be to take bits and pieces from our everyday world and make them into art. I hope you will join us.

What you will need to “find” in your home for this exciting challenge of a workshop:

• **Cloth:** Actual scraps, stuff from your ragbag, old clothes that are ripped or stained. ALL SINGLE SOCKS!, old dishrags

and napkins, threadbare curtains and sheets, old t-shirts you never wear. Ugly scarves (I know you have some).

• **Something to wrap with:** Balls of yarn and string, spools of thread, ribbons, shoelaces, all sorts or wire. Anything that you could wrap or bind with. Be creative—rubber bands, twist ties, zip ties—who knows what you might

find! Or on the macro level, old belts, ropes, bungee cords and baling cords. Don’t have anything like that? Really? Are you sure? Anyway—no worries—NO WORRIES—we can cut old t-shirts into long strips. I will show you how.

• **Found objects:** Broken stuff, found stuff, anything at all. Old or single shoes, old carpet remnants or broken small appliances. Old Christmas ornaments and of course buttons, beads and all



of those single earrings.

I want to teach this class because I am curious about what you will find and what you will make out of it. The class will be on the small side so that we will have time to learn from each other’s ideas and discoveries. I have never done anything quite like this before. I hope you will join me in this adventure. I start smiling just thinking about it. What will happen? Who knows? Let’s find out!!!

• **Website:** bryant@bryantholsenbeck.com

SEE PAGE 6 FOR WORKSHOP REGISTRATION INFO

“Imagination is more important than knowledge. Knowledge is limited. Imagination encircles the world.”

– Albert Einstein

Stitches in Time: Developing a Daily Fiber Art Practice



A virtual workshop with LISA BINKLEY.
(Exact dates, times and fee to be announced)

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. Additionally it's 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 form of stitches, written words, and some sketches.



• **Website:** lisabinkley.typepad.com

Supply List *(students should have these available to use during the workshop):*

- **Fabric:** Approx. 1 yard of fabric on which you like to stitch (examples include muslin, wool felt, counted-work cloth, etc.). The fabric should be light in value and either a solid color or a very subtle pattern/visual texture (white, off-white, or light neutral is fine). Up to 2 yards is okay if you are bringing more than one type of fabric.
- **Threads:** 6-12+ skeins / hanks / balls of embroidery threads in a range of values and in a palette that appeals to you (include some embroidery floss, some pearl cotton in weights 8 and 12, and some novelty threads). Bring at least one white or cream and one dark/black.
- **Needles:** A set of hand-stitching needles able to accommodate your various threads as well as seed beads.
- **Scissors:** For cutting fabric, and a small sharp pair for threads.
- **Small sketch book** (can be something you already have on hand) and a pen or pencil for sketching and jotting down ideas. Feel free to bring these in one or a few colors.

Optional Supplies:

- **Beads:** If you are a beader (and even if you're not or not sure), bring 3-6+ tubes/ small packets of seed beads in a range of sizes such as 6, 8, 11, and 15 and in a range of values and finishes (some opaque, some translucent, some matte, some pearly, etc.)
- **Beading Thread:** At least one spool/ bobbin of a neutral colored beading thread (size D)
- **Bead cloth** to hold loose beads
- **Portable task lamp** and/or magnifier
- **Hoop/Frame:** A small embroidery hoop or frame
- **Thread wax** or conditioner

WORKSHOP REGISTRATION INFORMATION

Dates, times and fees for the Bryant Holsenbeck and Lisa Binkley summer workshops are still being finalized. Watch for an email with final details.

We are also in contact with workshop leaders for the Sept 2020 - May 2021 programs and will alert members when information is available to register for those as well.

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 Tuzzolino	847-707-1739	jmtuzz@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	847-404-9673	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	708-902-0087	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 Kopenhagenver	847-808-8217	kopenhagenver@comcast.net

Loose Ends & Gathered Threads

The newsletter of the North Suburban NeedleArts Guild is published almost every month.

- 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 June

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

NSNG Membership Information

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:** Contact membership chair Janet Tuzzolino for an application. Annual membership dues are \$50. Please contact Janet if you have a change of address, phone or email address.

Janet Tuzzolino: 847-707-1739 or email jmtuzz@gmail.com

- **MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY:** An annual directory includes names and contact info for all members, calendars, NSNG Bi-Laws and other information about our Guild.

Visit our website: www.nsn.org