

Loose Ends & Gathered Threads

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

The Power to Adapt

Boy, these are stressful times, and if you watch the news, it is hard to envision the light at the end of the tunnel. But there will be one eventually, I believe in that.

Back in April, it was also hard to see how we would work out the meetings and workshops, but slowly things have been coming together.

“We can do this,” I thought. And we are.

Your board has been working hard to provide programs for you. Cynthia Boudreau and Debby Henning jumped in with both feet and have quickly lined up artists to

run virtual workshops.

I still have a lot to learn about this crazy Zoom thing,

but I am so impressed how you all have embraced it; you are showing up for meetings and signing up for workshops. We are staying connected and furthering creativity.

Bravo!

– Luan Wold, NSNG President



Sept: Improvisational Quilting



Oct: Textile Architecture

Fall 2020 Workshops

Details on pages 3 & 4 and on our website, www.nsn.org.



Nov: Whole Cloth Quilting



Dec: Hand Block Printing

NSNG Calendar • Summer & Fall 2020

Meetings are **Tues mornings at 9:30 am**. Zoom invitations will be sent by email.

- **July 7 and August 4:** Summer Meetings. Details on page 2.
- **September 1:** First meeting of fall. Presentation by Cindy Grisdela on Improv Quilting. Workshop to follow.
- **October 6:** Presentation by Sue Bleiweiss on Working in a Series. Textile Architecture Workshop to follow.

- **November 10:** Quilter’s Yoga and Whole Cloth Quilting with Heidi Parkes. Workshop to follow.
- **December 1:** Virtual Gathering and Annual Member Challenge. Discussion of Plans for 2021. Hand Block Printing Workshop with Mindy Schumacher to follow.

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Visit our website:
www.nsn.org



Join our challenge and create a hat to show off in December.



We are on a roll with our Zoom meetings. The next one is **Tues, July 7 at 9:30 am**. We are offering more time for members to share their work and chat a bit.

To prepare, have your work ready and we will call on you during the meeting. Use the **chat function** to indicate what you want to share:

- Were you inspired by the challenge to create something representing **HOME or NEST**?
- Did you join one of the **summer workshops**? Show your project – even if it's not finished – and tell us how you enjoyed the virtual workshop.
- Have you learned a **new skill or technique** during this lockdown?

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Bill Keller provided tips for using Zoom in the last newsletter. Here are a few reminders:

- It is good etiquette to **have your microphone muted if you are not speaking (red slash visible)**. If everybody leaves their microphone turned on, there would be too much background noise to hear anyone speak.
- 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 **chat button**, you can open a chat window to text, either privately to another attendee, or to everyone. Use chat to talk privately with your friends or to say "hello" to everyone in the meeting.

Annual Member Challenge

An article in the April 1984 issue of *handmade* magazine inspired this challenge. The writer notes that hats were originally "a very practical means of protection. These strange and sometimes absurd objects which we place on our heads or hide in our closets do tend to inspire extremes in thought and behavior."

Hats have been known to "have historically served as a form of public identification; to contribute to the distinctions we make between kings and commoners, popes and priests, soldiers and civilians."

On the lighter side – there was the "Hatter, whose tea-time antics so exasperate Alice." Then there was Charlie Chaplin and his bowler; Carmen Miranda and her fruit; Darth Vader and his helmet. "One is very often unthinkable without the other."

The article also says to heed essayist Lance Morrow's warning: **'Never try to wear a hat that has more character than you do.'**



- YOUR CHALLENGE is to go against that heed. **Create a hat that has so much character that it can stand alone but needs YOU to show it off.**
- Your hat should: tell a story or make a point; describe your life; remind you of a special moment; or a special place you visited or a place you want to visit.
- Use your sewing needle, sewing machine, knitting needle, crochet hook or other needlework techniques. Use your favorite technique – or use them all – for at least 75% of the work.

- Make a hat from scratch or work on an existing one. If working on an existing hat, 75% of the decorations must be new.
- The finished hats will be due at our December 1st meeting, either in person or virtually. Workshop Gift Certificates will be awarded: First Place - \$100, Second Place - \$75 and Third Place - \$50.
- Please contact me with questions and if you plan to participate. – Susan Kenyon, slkenyon@aol.com

Improvisational Quilting with Cindy Grisdela

Cindy Grisdela, from Reston, VA, is an award-winning fiber artist with over 30 years' experience creating eye-catching quilts. She specializes in improvisational quilt designs and dense free motion quilting. She travels extensively all over the country teaching and lecturing to guilds and groups. Cindy is the author of *Artful Improv: Explore Color Recipes, Building Blocks & Free Motion Quilting*. Her quilt designs have been published in numerous books and magazines. She has also appeared on Quilting Arts TV.

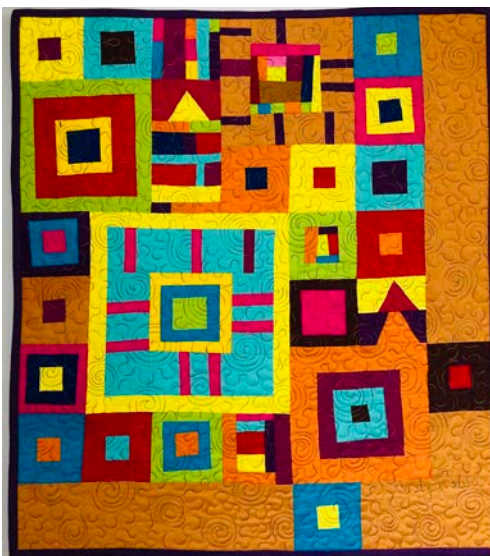
• Website: www.cindygrisdela.com

Lecture Sept 1, 9:30 am: *Improvisational Quilting*

Have you ever wondered how to create an Improv Quilt without a pattern? Where do you start? How do you know when it's finished? Author and award winning artist Cindy Grisdela will share her tips and tricks in this entertaining lecture about the process for working improvisationally from start to finish.

Improv WORKSHOP: Sept 2, 3, and 4, 10 am to Noon

In the workshop you will learn how to create Improv blocks and put them together into an original design, just



like a jigsaw puzzle. Once you have the techniques down, you can use them endlessly to create quilts, pillows, table runners and more. We'll talk about how to choose colors and use "coping strips" to complete the composition and make it more interesting. There's no measuring or precise cutting and each quilt will be unique.

There's no measuring or precise cutting and each quilt will be unique.

Workshop Fee: \$75 (includes 1 hour of one-on-one time with Cindy)

• See page 5 for workshop registration information.



Fiber Art Collages with Sue Bleiweiss

Award winning fiber artist Sue Bleiweiss creates vibrant colorful and whimsical quilted fiber art collages using her own hand dyed cotton. Sue has written three books about the techniques she uses, written numerous magazine articles and has appeared on several TV programs. Her award-winning quilts have been exhibited internationally and reside in private collections worldwide.

• Website: www.suebleiweiss.com

Lecture Oct 6, 9:30 am: *Working in a Series*

There are many benefits to working in a series beyond just helping you to develop your own personal style. It can help you stay focused and motivated. In this lecture I will share my own experiences of working in a series and the invaluable benefits that I have gained along the way. I'll also give you some tools and techniques that you can use to start your own series of work.

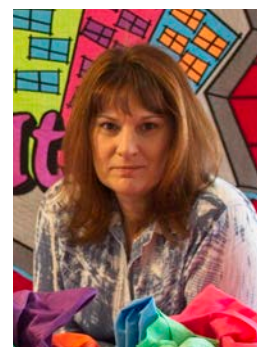
Textile Architecture WORKSHOP:

Oct 9, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm

Create your own version of my wonky house quilt! Work with my pattern or customize it and make it a winter scene; make the sun a moon and it's a night scene; turn the garage into a dog house or add a clothesline strung from the tree to the house with socks hung to dry. I'll take you through my entire art quilt making process from start to finish and you'll learn my cookie cutter outline method for getting those black outlines around odd shaped images. You'll also learn my methods for working with Mistyfuse fusible web, my quilt-as-you-go method and my 4-strip fused binding technique.



Workshop Fee: \$85
(One-on-one time can be arranged directly with Sue for \$25/hour)





Whole Cloth Quilting and Quilter's Yoga with Heidi Parkes

Heidi Parkes is a quilter and mender living in Milwaukee. She taught high school art in Naperville for 9 years and continues to pursue her passion by lecturing and leading workshops across the country. Celebrating the hand is an essential component in Heidi's clothing repairs and quilts. She is inspired

by the Japanese aesthetic of wabi-sabi. Whether visibly hand-pieced, intricately machine-pieced, or a wholecloth quilt, her art is infused with meaning and history, employing traditional techniques including: Korean Jogakbo patchwork, Seminole patchwork, American knots and improvisation, Japanese and Indian hand quilting, and European hand embroidery. Often using specific textiles, like an heirloom tablecloth or bed sheet, Heidi adds subtle meaning and material memory from the start.

• Website: heidiparkes.com

Lecture Nov 10, 9:30 am: *Quilt Update and Hand Yoga*

It's been 3 years since I was a guest artist at NSNG. I've been busy sewing in that time. My work has shifted to be nearly all hand piecing and hand quilting, and I'm as productive as ever! This workshop will bring you behind the scenes into my process. Then, we'll practice some yoga together. I'm a certified yoga therapist, and from the comfort of our chairs, we'll do a 20 minute routine aimed at caring for our hands, forearms, necks, and eyes. If you can sew and use a computer, you're *'fit enough'* for this routine, and if you sew half as much as I do, it will feel great on your hands.

Whole Cloth Quilting WORKSHOP: Nov 10, 1:30 - 5:00 pm; Nov 11 and 12, 10:30 - 12:30 and 2:30 - 5:00 each day

We will start with a large piece of fabric, and then add to that with visible hand piecing, appliqué style. We will learn to add small and very large pieces of appliqué with a variety of stitches including running, ladder, and whip. We will also cover embroidery for our quilts with the running



stitch and backstitch to add elements of drawing and text with your own handwriting on the quilt. Plan to make a quilt that's between 3 to 5 feet in size, depending on your preference. If you want something bigger or smaller than that, I won't hold you back!

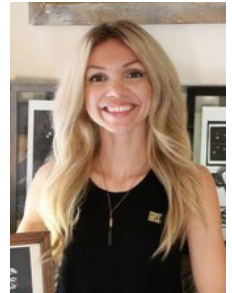
Workshop Fee: \$145
(One-on-one time can be arranged directly with Heidi for \$60/hour)

• See page 5 for workshop registration information.



Hand Block Printing with Mindy Schumacher

Follysome Prints is the creative studio of Mindy Schumacher. Every follysome creation springs from a fascination with thoughtful, eclectic and nostalgic design. Mindy is an artist and music teacher in Rockford who has led printmaking workshops across the country. She is a member of the People of Print and the Speedball Network of Professional Artists.



• Website: Follysomeprints.Etsy.com

Block Printing for Fabric and Paper WORKSHOP: Dec 1 and 2, 2 - 4 pm

Join us for an introduction in designing, carving and printing your very own designs. Come be inspired by Mindy's passion for block printing and leave with your own carved printer's stamp and step-by-step instruction for application on a number of possible projects.

Part 1 on Dec 1 will focus on the elements of design and carving. Project ideas are countless; participants can choose to design a stamp to be used for holiday cards, gift wrap paper, textiles for craft projects or for the home.

Part 2 on Dec 3 will focus on printing techniques and getting familiar with inking, stamping and creating patterns, if desired.

Workshop Fee: \$50

(One-on-one time can be arranged directly with Mindy for \$25/hour)

Tribute to Mary McManus



Many of you know that Mary McManus passed away on May 23, 2020. Mary lived in Forest Park and worked in schools in Maywood, Elmhurst, and Norridge as a teacher and librarian. She retired as a legal secretary. Mary was a quilter and active member of Illinois Quilters, Inc. as well as NSNG.

I remember chatting with Mary at our May Board

meeting last year when I agreed to take over as newsletter editor. I asked her when she started as editor. She replied, *“Oh, sometime in the early nineties, I guess.”* Wow. That’s a long time. I feel honored to follow in her footsteps. Mary joined our Guild in 1990, so she must have jumped right in. Production was different then. Email was not in wide usage until the late nineties. But she faithfully edited and distributed the newsletter for all those years. Thank you, Mary. We will miss you.

– Jan Harrington

Mary was a woman before her time. She was a self-taught tech pioneer and had all the “itoy” before anyone. She had the knowledge to use them and shared that knowledge. She firmly required your newsletter article by noon Thursday after the board meeting. And don’t even think about calling her during NCAA March Madness!!

– Beth Polonsky

I was fortunate to be able to serve on the board with Mary during part of her long tenure. She was always welcoming and I loved her quick wit. She told you up front that she wasn’t *“as available”* during the Final Four and adjusted our newsletter deadlines accordingly. Makes me smile just thinking back on her passion for college basketball. She truly loved our Guild.

– Julie Rivera

I remember Mary as a tech wizard when most of us were just beginning to figure out computer stuff. She had a great sense of humor and didn’t suffer any fools! Mary was a tireless, patient and effective editor who donated countless hours to our organization! What a gal! RIP, Mary!

I’m so glad she lived a long life. We were lucky to know her.

– Maggie Weiss

Fall Workshop Registration

Some excellent workshops are scheduled for Fall 2020. **Workshop registration for these workshops is open to members who have paid their dues for 2020-21 starting on July 8, 2020.** Workshop registration for non-members will start on August 1, 2020. Non-members must complete a participant agreement and are charged an additional \$20.00 per workshop.

Payment in full is required for complete registration. To register, download a copy of the Workshop Registration Form from the website, complete the registration form and send it to the Workshop Registrar, **Jenny Ross**, with your payment. If you have questions, contact Jenny at 847-404-9673 or send an email to registrar@nsng.org.

Membership Renewals

Complete and sign the 2020-2021 membership form and mail with your check. My mailing address is listed on the form. Please contact me with questions or if you need a form.

– Janet Tuzzolino, jmtuzz@gmail.com

Fine Art of Fiber

We are cautiously creeping toward some version of FAOF in November. The deadline for submission is still Sept 12, so continue to work on your projects. Applications will be on the FAOF website later this summer, and we will notify members when they are available. Our paramount concern is always the safety and comfort levels of our members and show visitors.

– Nona Flores, ncflores52@gmail.com

Service Projects

All Days for Girls kits, pillow-case kits, and blanket kits are available. Corky and I have comfortable chairs outside on the front porch to practice social distancing. Contact me to arrange a pick-up time. Stay safe!

– Jeanette Page, pagequilter@gmail.com

Mini Workshops

If you are interested in hosting a virtual mini workshop this fall, please contact me for details and scheduling.

– Elizabeth Khodikians-Guillette, ekguillette@gmail.com

Show & Tell

Marjorie Ruth Leon

Do you have a serene, contemplative place in your home where you keep photographs of well-loved people and pets, rocks and seashells you gathered from wind-swept beaches, or sprigs of fresh lilac from your garden that grace a crystal vase? Maybe these treasured items rest on a small table or tucked-away shelf—a place where you reflect upon and honor those precious memorabilia that embody your deepest thoughts and feelings. A place that represents, as author Theodore Roszak says, “a transparent doorway” to deeper realms. If so, you may want to honor this peaceful refuge with a piece of your fiber art.

This was my inspiration for the contemplative cloth I knitted out of 4-weight worsted ecru Fisherman’s wool Aran/Afghan yarn. This piece was worked vertically on a 40 inch long size 8 circular knitting needle. All pattern panels were worked successively on each vertical row of the piece



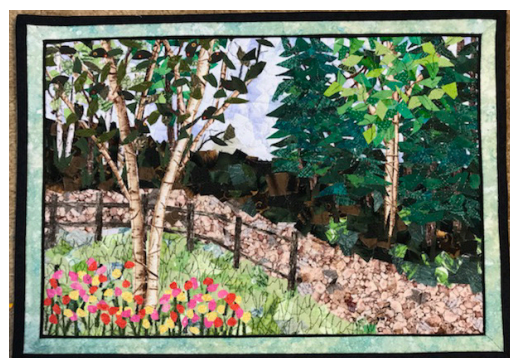
to avoid section joins. As my cloth was going to be used as a foundation upon which spiritual objects would reside, I chose knitting patterns that had relevance for my spiritual tradition: Candelabras/menorahs, papyrus reeds, Jacob’s ladder, and a Tree of Life motif.

As a knitter, I love to both experiment with new and intricate lace patterns that challenge my skills and to engage with simple, repetitive knit-and-purl based patterns that provide me with a meditative space. This piece combines a satisfying balance of both types of patterns.



Donna Sweeney

I recently finished this 60 x 60” Christmas quilt. I was intrigued with the Pineapple Block last December and made a pillow. I realized I needed a bit more instruction on the technique so I watched Jenny Doan from Missouri Star Quilt Company present an instructional video on the Pineapple Block using the Creative Grids 10-inch ruler. The ruler is great and comes with clear instructions. I also purchased the book, *Pineapple Play, Quilts and Projects* by Jean Ann Wright.



Marcia Hartnell

The butterfly was done with ink pens which are great for shading and accents. The landscape uses the confetti technique ala Ann Loveless.

Paper-pieced “*Mini Cats Galore*” followed a pattern by Bonnie Jean Rosenbaum from 1996. The eyes and noses are beads and the mouths are drawn with fabric marker. The paper-piecing technique is different in that instead of stitching on the line you stitch a 1/4 inch off the line.

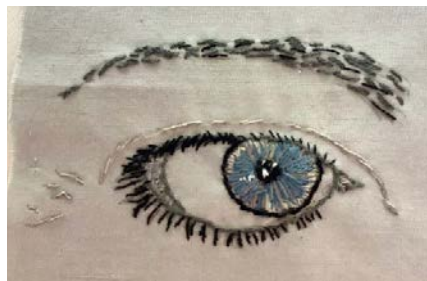
Show & Tell

Valerie Rodelli

At the beginning of this pandemic, the UK online resource TextileArtist.org offered a free 5-week stitch challenge. I participated in this challenge, along with more than 20,000 like-minded stitchers from every corner of the world, all bringing their own cultural stitch traditions. It was amazing to see all of the results.

Many commented on how this challenge helped them with managing this newfound time, kept them sane in an anxious time, helped them to reconnect with “stitch” once again, and warded off loneliness during quarantine. It seemed everyone looked forward to Monday morning when the new video and challenge was unveiled. In fact, there was such positive feedback from the participants, they added two more weeks of free challenges! It was a very instructional and wonderful experience.

Because the response was so great, they initiated a “Stitch Club” to keep the interest going. Of course, this is no longer free, as that would be prohibitive for them to continue. This new program is more detailed with videos, Q&A sessions, and a workbook to download or print. At the moment it is not open to anyone who didn’t participate in the original challenge. They are honing the process with founding members for a few months. When it is open to join as a new member, I will notify the guild. So, head on over to the site, textileartist.org, and take a look at the “stitch challenge,” not Stitch Club just yet. I hope some of you decide to do it when it opens up.



Four samples are shared here: stitched eye, stitching within a template, twig and shadow, and folk art collage.



Week 3 with Emily Tull: *Observing and drawing.* I was so apprehensive to do this eye, but enjoyed it after I let go of some of the trepidation. I took a closeup picture of my eye and changed the picture to monochrome which helped to see the values. Then I sketched it out on paper, transferred it to cloth, planned my colors and finally stitched it out. It was my favorite challenge and I learned a lot.

Week 5 with Emily Jo Gibbs: *Observe, sketch and stitch a shadow.* This really helped me to observe shadow in a picture. I thought it would be easier than it was. I did the shadow twice, but wound up using a type of netting/shear fabric for the shadow itself. The more I looked at my print-out, the more I saw the shaded areas. It was a learning experience and great fun to do. I do believe I will use the technique in another application.

Week 6 with Anne Kelly: *Make folk art from repurposed items, nature, and travel. Have it tell a story personal to you.* This was out of my wheelhouse, but it was a challenge and I did it. I really enjoyed the thinking and planning that went into it and was pleased with the result. It was a type of collage with items new and old. The overcast stitching over the entire top gave it an antique look and pushed back the colors. That was optional. Another tool in my toolbox to be used later.

Week 7 with Christine Chester: *Make a template and create the “idea” of line within each space with stitches.* I absolutely loved doing this. It taught me so much about using different stitches. It was amazing how shapes emerged just with the positioning of stitch within the template. I branched out into trying stitches I hadn’t done in years. Planning color with this piece was also fun. I know what I will attempt to do again. I also know what didn’t work. I’ve thought of many other ways to use this technique.

Show & Tell



Nona Flores

My word of the year is *“finish”* and I took the opportunity of Shelter in Place to do just that with these menagerie pieces. The *“Jester in the Garden: Bird of Paradise”* wall hanging was designed in Jane Sassaman’s Abstracting Nature workshop given at Woodland Ridge Retreat in April 2018. *“Hannibal the Olyphaunt”* was started at a Violet Craft workshop at Quilter’s Destination also in 2018. The simple but beautiful longarm quilting is by Sue DiVarco. I have really wanted to do this pattern for years because I was once – for at least 15-minutes – the world’s expert on medieval images of the elephant.



Don’t judge
each day by
the HARVEST
you reap –
but by
the SEEDS
that you
PLANT.

• • •

Robert Louis
Stevenson



Joan Cook

I had some dyed fabric and Cherry-wood fabric that I felt worked together in this interesting design. It’s amazing what we find in our sewing room and somehow the fabrics can complement one another.



Linda Norby

I created this 30 x 48” tapestry using yarn that I had on hand. I always create the design first and then get the yarn. This time, because we were under the stay-at-home order, I created the design with yarn from my stash. I was really lucky – I used up every inch of some of the colors!

For Sale

Val Koppenhaver’s friend in Highland Park is looking for homes for her late mother’s sewing equipment:

- Brother ULT2002D with extended table, Disney embroidery hoops, all accessories, user manual. \$760
- PE Design embroidery cards, PED basic embroidery blank card. \$150
- Brother PE Design 2 card reader model #RS232C. \$140
- Brother Pacesetter 8200, manual, all accessories. \$450
- Baby lock Evolve includes manuals, foot pedal. \$1000
- Contact Robin Fischer for details, robimgail12@comcast.net

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

NSNG Board • 2020 - 2021

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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 late August

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. It will be sent out as a pdf this year, and not printed.

Visit our website: www.nsn.org