

## Start Small, Grow Big!

Many of us hesitate to take on new projects or embark on something we are not comfortable with. It is so easy to fall back on what is familiar.

I was talking with an artist lately who recalled her own creative journey and she spoke about beginning a new path by working small . . . literally small! You don't have to make such a big commitment and it is not as scary. She said it gave her the confidence to expand; get bigger.

I suppose that is why so many professional artists make sketches or small samples. For myself, I don't often have the patience to do that, but it makes sense on so many levels: art, business, closet reorganizing, etc. Start small, Grow BIG!

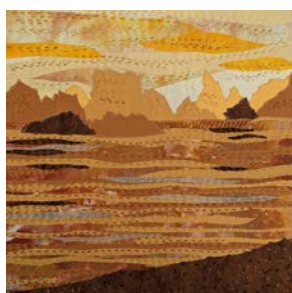
– Luan Wold, *NSNG President*



### Susan Sances

- I did these in response to the prompt *Emergence*. The first piece is called “Unmasking.” I used a photo I took in my garden last summer. I traced the image onto cotton, painted with acrylic fabric paints and then fused it to silk fabric. The yellow part of the lily is thread painted and the black “mask” is appliquéed with machine stitching for the details. The stem and leaves are rough appliqué.

- The second piece was inspired by an aloe plant that is almost grown out of its pot. Again, I combined thread painting (the butterflies from photos I took last summer) and fused appliqué. It is called “Aloe with Butterflies.” I wanted to express wild optimism that the butterflies were coming toward the healing aloe plant sitting at my window and the fantasy that the indoors was safe again.



### Shelley Brucar

I got the idea for these monochromatic value studies from Katie PM in a video from the SAQA Color seminar. They are hand-stitched!!!! I often have trouble with lack of contrast so it seemed like a good idea for me. And I think it was a very good exercise!



**MORE SHOW & TELL INSIDE!**

## NSNG 2021 Calendar

Monthly Guild meetings are **Tues mornings at 9:30 am (CST)**.

Zoom invitations will be sent by email.

**DETAILS INSIDE & ON OUR WEBSITE: [www.nsng.org](http://www.nsng.org)**

- **April 6:** “A Dialogue Between Quilting and Architecture” by Valerie Goodwin, mixed media artist. Favorite Places Workshop to follow.
- **Thurs, April 15: Zoom Meet-Up** – Open Topic & Quilting
- **April 22: Mini Workshop** with Tricia Baldwin – Quilt Piecing with Fusible Interfacing
- **Thurs, April 27: Zoom Meet-Up** – SERVICE
- **May 4:** Presentation by paper artist Helen Hiebert. Paper Weaving Workshop to follow.

### SUMMER SEMINAR - See page 7

- **June 1:** Meeting and presentation by artist Susan Raber Bray. Weaving with Natural Materials workshop to follow (June 2, 3 & 4).
- **June 16 and 18:** Workshop only. Textiles and Tea Bags with Carol Ann Webster.



## Linda Norby

- Here is one of three t-shirts I made during and after taking Bill Keller's *Alabama Chanin™* Workshop. I really enjoyed the workshop since it was a complete departure from my usual work, weaving tapestries. The difference between the colors of the two shirts is very subtle. The inner shirt is a mottled blue. Bill suggests cutting away most of the inner shirt, but I like the thickness of both together.
- I also recently completed this tapestry. It's 30 x 46" and I can't say much about it. I just start sketching and I ended up with this. They take me longer now because I adopted a cat named Ilse who likes to "help."



## Barbara Schneider

This is one piece from my upcoming exhibit at the McHenry County Conservation area. "Observations: Walking in Wonder" consists of 27 hand-stitched, mounted pieces. Each piece is based on walks and notes that I took at the 27 McHenry County Conservation sites. The textiles and the extensive notes/labels work together to give the viewer a feel for the beauty of nature in my area.

The exhibit starts May 7 and runs through July 4 at the Lost Valley Visitors Center at Glacial Park Conservation area in Richmond, IL. There will be an opening reception on **May 15** from 2-5 and an artist talk on June 12 (time TBD). Check out the special events page at [www.mccdistrct.org](http://www.mccdistrct.org)



## Sylvia Dresser

I made this Squash Blossom Box in a Zoom class with Nancy Akerly. The teacher supplied two of the papers – the dark green I had from some unknown place! It was fun to make. Her business is Liberty Grove Paper Arts, [libertygrovepaperarts.com](http://libertygrovepaperarts.com)

## Fine Art of Fiber – November 5 - 7, 2021

The Fine Art of Fiber is tentatively planning on an in-person show which will run Friday-Sunday, November 5-7, 2021 (NO Thursday night). Viability and capacity for any in-person show will be determined by Chicago Botanic Garden guidelines which are currently at Illinois level 4 restrictions (50 person limit in Regenstein); we are optimistic that this will change as Illinois gradually reopens.

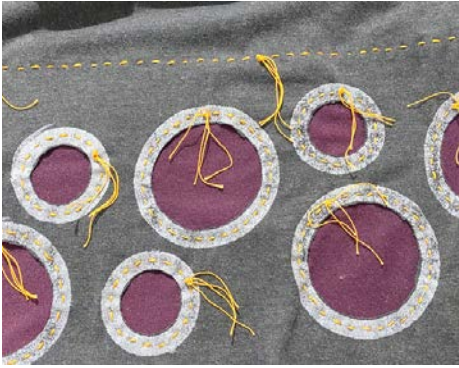
At this time, **the DEADLINE for submissions for the exhibit and boutique is AUGUST 1, 2021.**

Forms will be available on the FAOF website JULY 1, [fineartoffiber.org](http://fineartoffiber.org). Work submitted must be finished, and members are urged to submit as professional a photograph of their work as possible, ideally so that photos can be used on the website and for a virtual show if we must do a sudden pivot again this year. There is a non-refundable \$10 submission fee per exhibition piece (fees to be used to underwrite FAOF equipment storage and website redesign costs).

– Fine Art of Fiber Chair, **Nona Flores**, [ncflores52@gmail.com](mailto:ncflores52@gmail.com)

## Contribute to our SHOW & TELL pages!

We love to see your projects! Describe your inspiration and process. Email images, stories and other announcements to Jan Harrington, [janqharrington@gmail.com](mailto:janqharrington@gmail.com)



## Debby Henning

I participated in Bill Keller's March workshop on stitching using the *Alabama Chanin*™ technique. Instead of using T-shirts, I decided to make a tunic with some knit fabrics that I had.

I created the circle design using my computer and painted it onto the knit fabrics. Then I did the stitching in the yellow thread. Interestingly I tried some threads that I thought would be a better match, but it blended in too well with the colors of the paint and fabric. So I switched to the yellow, which really contrasts nicely. After doing the stitching, the grey fabric was cut away from the centers of the circles revealing the burgundy fabric un-



derneath. I added interest at the neckline and the sleeves using the contrasting color and additional stitching.

Bill's class was fun and informative and motivated me to finally get some sewing done. Thanks, Bill!



## Marcia Hartnell

• The bluebird mini art quilt (13.5 x 16.5") was started in a class in Michigan three years ago. I decided to finally finish it. The class was using Derwent



inktense pencils. I added borders and embellished the bird with hand embroidery and machine quilting.

• The leather shoulder bag is from a Tag Along Tote pattern by Atkinson Designs. I modified the

pattern using leather and fabric so I could sew it on my regular machine. I have made this bag many times. It is my favorite!



## Laine Cobb

I really wanted to make circular quilts. These two are the first ones that I did the quilting on. They are 45" in diameter. They have 8 pockets all around. My husband fashioned a thick wire to hold them flat. They are hung by that wire. I have done nothing but quilt since last March. I don't really have any deep inspirations or techniques. I just want to keep busy.

## Program Preview

Maggie Weiss is in receipt of all the necessary contracts for the coming program year – September 2021 through May 2022.

We have a wonderful group of teachers on board – including several terrific talents from the rescheduled 2020 - 21 programs!

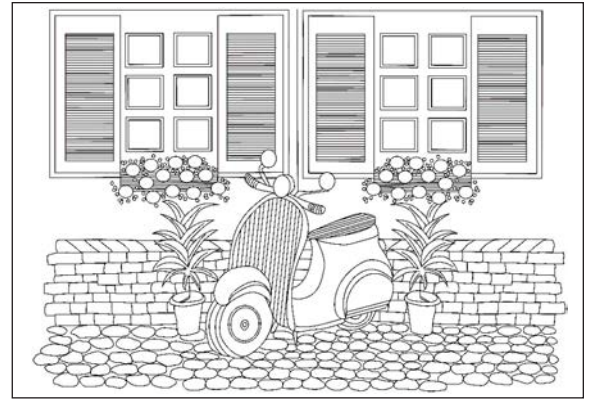
Please join us at our April 6th meeting for a preview of the line-up and how to register for workshops. Classes will be a combination of both in-person and virtual learning.

Details will also be in the May newsletter.



## Marla Florio

I made this coat from the repurposed vintage quilt shown above. I have had the quilt for about 45 years. I slept under it for 10 years. I then put it in the closet and forgot about it. So now I can be under the warmth of the quilt again as a coat!



Line drawing for *My Bright Pink Scooter* (8.9 x 12")

## Kathleen Field

For 17 years, I made and sold my quilts in craft shows, art shows, galleries, and at the Blind Faith Cafe in Evanston. I also sold my quilt designs professionally and traveled around the country and the world. I retired from the quilt world in 2019 and began my embroidery journey.

While sitting at home this past year, I took the skills I learned in designing quilts to designing and selling embroidery kits. It's been an exciting adventure so far – turning ideas into designs and designs into finished pieces.

In 2018 and 2019, I took 2 trips to London to visit my daughter. We traveled around the United Kingdom and France and I took many photos. When I decided to make embroidery kits, I looked back at my photos and based my designs on them.

I sketch in Adobe Illustrator and design and redesign. Illustrator is a wonderful program to make revisions during all steps of the design process. Once I have the design completed, I print it on a linen/cotton blend. Then I decide on the kinds of stitches and the colors of the DMC floss.

The next step is to make the sample, which takes the most time. I make changes during this process; sometimes I don't like the colors, sometimes I don't like the stitch. I redo the sewing many times. I often add stitches once I complete the embroidery. After I completed sewing *My Bright Pink Scooter*, I added the French knots in the scooter and windows.



## Donna Sweeney

The first quilt (36" square) is for a nephew's new baby arriving later in April. The 60" by 72" quilt is for a grandson who wanted a "winter" quilt for his 8th grade graduation.

## NSNG Membership Renewal

I hope our 2020-2021 virtual meetings, lectures, workshops and get-togethers were bright spots of creativity and connection for you as they have been for me. Your membership in NSNG will continue to offer these opportunities to you until July 31, 2021.

Would you like more new and exciting offerings available to you in the upcoming year? Then, please renew your North Suburban NeedleArts Guild membership! We will let you know when the Membership Renewal forms are available.

We've got great things in store for you, as you will see at our April meeting!

– Membership Chair, **Janet Tuzzolino**, [jmtuzz@gmail.com](mailto:jmtuzz@gmail.com)



## Zoom Meet-Up April 15: Open Topic & Quilting

Our Open Topic Meet-Up is always a place where you can share your latest project, get new ideas, ask for advice on a challenging piece or just catch up with fellow needle arts enthusiasts. This month we will also re-visit Quilting.

• **Tricia Baldwin** finished this quilt during 2020. The design is from her favorite quilt shop, *A Different Box of Crayons*. “The thing I love about Lynn (the owner of the shop) is that she incorporates mixed media. She uses quilter’s cotton, wool, silk, wovens, and anything else you can think of. The quilt in the picture is not printed quilter’s cotton – it’s woven cottons. From her inspiration, I used silk matka for the dark gray divider with a mustard/purple woven for the circles. These were all from her shop in Glen Ellyn.”

### NSNG Zoom Meet-Ups: 9:30 - 11:30 am

- Monday, April 12 – Hand Work
- Tuesday, April 13 – Knitting & Crochet
- Thursday, April 15 – Open Topic & Quilting
- Tuesday, April 27 – Service

Tricia Baldwin coordinates our virtual meet-ups. Please email Tricia at [meetups@nsng.org](mailto:meetups@nsng.org) to receive an email invitation with Zoom link and if you have questions or ideas for future meet-ups.

## Service Meet-Up

Interested in sharing your ideas about service projects and charity involvement? Do you need help understanding the requirements? Learn about projects and what others have donated to charitable causes using their needle art skills. Your ideas, questions and show & tell are welcome!

• Join the **Service Meet-Up on April 27th at 9:30 am**. Gretchen Alexander and Tricia Baldwin will facilitate the discussion. Contact Tricia at [meetups@nsng.org](mailto:meetups@nsng.org) to receive the Zoom link.

• **Marcia Hartnell is one member who has made many charity quilts:**

“I made this Bow Tie quilt top (61 x 77”) for the Quilts of Valor group in Traverse City, Michigan. The pattern was a Missouri Star tutorial that caught my fancy. I think I have made 5 or 6 quilt tops. Other members of the group do the long-arm quilting. We meet monthly at the VFW which gives us space to work and store supplies. The quilts are awarded to veterans who are nominated by friends and family. Some of the group members conduct the ceremonies.

Being a lifelong sewer and crafter, my quilt journey began after retirement and summers in Lake Ann, Michigan, where I joined a small group of quilters that met weekly to work on hand projects. This expanded to a larger group, meeting at the church and bringing our sewing machines to do larger projects.



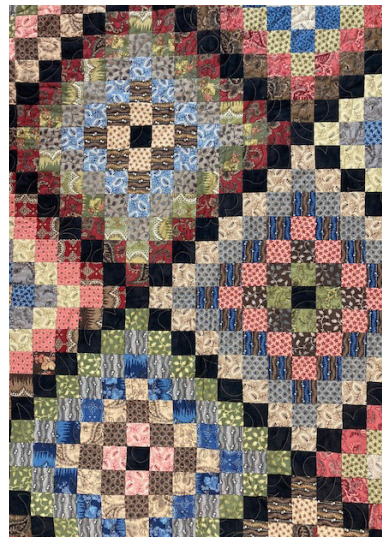
In Michigan I participate in three quilt groups. Each group has a charity arm donating quilts and other stitched items that are needed to hospitals, nursing homes and social service organizations.

I have no idea how many charity quilts I have made in the last ten years. With each quilt I learned techniques and patterns and my personal preferences regarding quilt designs. Each provided an opportunity to explore the world of quilting. Some of the quilts were totally finished by me but mostly I pieced the tops and a long-arm quilter quilted them.”

• *Hope to see you April 27th. Thank you for all you do for others.*

– Service Chair, **Gretchen Alexander**,  
[gretchen.alexander@sbcglobal.net](mailto:gretchen.alexander@sbcglobal.net) or  
847-257-2507.

## Mini Workshop with Tricia Baldwin: Quilt Piecing with Fusible Interfacing



• **Thurs, April 22, 9:30 - 11:30 am • Fee: \$10**

Tricia Baldwin will teach you how to use fusible interfacing to make quilt piecing fun, fast and successful! Have you ever seen a Waterfall quilt, wanted to make one but the thought of sewing hundreds (thousands?) of small squares together is daunting? Fusible interfacing is the answer. This is not a new technique, but Tricia has tips, helpful techniques, and experience to guide you. This is an invaluable tool to have in your quilter’s toolbox. The focus will be on piecing, but we will also briefly cover how interfacing is used in applique and t-shirt quilts.

• To register for this workshop, email Tricia and Elizabeth Guillette: [baldwintricia2@gmail.com](mailto:baldwintricia2@gmail.com), [ekguillette@gmail.com](mailto:ekguillette@gmail.com)

## Favorite Places with Valerie Goodwin



Valerie Goodwin is a mixed media fiber artist and architect, whose works of fine art are included in museum and private collections. Most of her work is inspired by a love of aerial views of landscapes and cities. Many of her quilts are based on maps. Goodwin's art has moved through various stages from traditional quilting to an interest in abstract expressionism and, currently, it is inspired by real and imaginary landscapes and cities. In some cases, her work shows an architectural sense of space with an archeological perspective. In others, the network of the city and its built form is more prominent. Valerie received degrees in architecture from Washington University and Yale University.

• **LECTURE: Tues, Apr 6, 9:30 am: *A Dialogue Between Quilting and Architecture***

Valerie is a practicing architect and this lecture focuses on the common ground between architecture and quilting: Shape, composition, ordering systems, color, texture, and pattern.

• **Favorite Places WORKSHOP:**

**Wed, Apr 7, 9:30 am - 1:30 pm;**

**Thurs, Apr 8, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm;**

**Fri, Apr 9, 9:30 am - 4:30 pm**

*(Half-hour break for lunch each day)*

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 that students bring a map of their chosen favorite place, some pre-planning and communication with each student will be required so that each person brings a map that is usable in this workshop.



• **Workshop Fee: \$150 (includes supply kit)**

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

## Paper Weaving with Helen Hiebert

• **LECTURE: Tues, May 4, 9:30 am:**

***The Secret Life of Paper***

Internationally recognized paper and book artist Helen Hiebert will share examples of her most recent work, including her limited edition artists books, videos and installations. She will talk about the Mother Tree Project, her traveling community installation about motherhood, and the *Secret Life of Paper*, a short film about abaca, a papermaking fiber. She will also discuss her adventures in writing how-to books, teaching online and using social media in the paper world.



Helen Hiebert constructs installations, sculptures, films, works in paper and artists books using paper as her primary medium. She teaches, gives lectures and exhibits her work internationally. She is the author of five paper craft books, writes a popular blog, The Sunday Paper and hosts the podcast Paper Talk. Helen lives and works in the Colorado Rocky Mountains.

• **Paper Weaving WORKSHOP: Wed, May 5, 10:00 am – 4:00 pm;**

**Thurs, May 6: 10:00 am – 4:00 pm**



Explore the basics and push the boundaries of paper weaving as you weave straight and curved strips, add a warp, make shaped weavings and cut windows to reveal paper layers. Helen will show examples of her work and that of other artists for inspiration, and we will weave create structural paper weavings, such as cards, books and lanterns. Use your own papers, purchase a kit containing gorgeous Japanese papers, or mix and match!

• **Workshop Fee: \$150**

• **Website with link to blog: [helenhiebertstudio.com](http://helenhiebertstudio.com)**

### Workshop Registration

Registration is open for Summer Seminar in June. The April workshop with Goodwin is full (waiting list available). Spots are available in the Hiebert workshop in May. Registration forms are on our website.

If you signed up for a workshop and are not able to attend, let Jenny Ross know, she will see if your spot can be filled from the waiting list. If you prefer to pay with a credit card that can be arranged. You will be responsible for paying the workshop fees and the credit card processing fee. Your registration is not complete until the completed registration form, a signed participant agreement and payment have been received.

• Please contact **Jenny Ross** at [registration@nsng.org](mailto:registration@nsng.org) or 847-404-9673.

• **Visit our website – [NSNG.org](http://NSNG.org) – for workshop details, supply lists and registration form.**

## Weaving with Natural Materials with Susan Raber Bray

Susan Raber Bray, born in New York and living in Vermont since the early 70's, works in several media including clay, natural fibers, pastels, and oils. Her work is shown both nationally and internationally. In recent years, Susan has held clay workshops in France, England, Italy and Hawaii. As a visiting artist sponsored by the Vermont Council on the Arts from 1989-2007, she has traveled throughout the state teaching in numerous Vermont public schools.



She has also taught part time at the University of Vermont for over 30 years

in the art department and over the last 12 years in the Environmental Studies Program. She started the Ceramics program at the Community College of Vermont in Burlington and has also taught at St. Michael's College in Vermont, the Rhode Island School of Design, and her own studio school, Springhouse Pottery, in Charlotte, Vermont.

• **LECTURE: Tues, June 1, 9:30 am: *The 4 P's – Play, Practice, Patience, and Perseverance***

Susan will explain how these principles of artistic creation have influenced her mentors and herself. She will also speak to the power of nature as a source of inspiration in her work.



- **Workshop Fee: \$80**
- **Website: [susanraber.com](http://susanraber.com)**

- **WORKSHOP: *Weaving With Natural Materials Using an Ancient Technique called Japanese Strone Weaving***  
**Wed, June 2:** 9:00 am -12 noon;  
**Thurs, June 3:** 9:00 am -12 noon;  
**Fri, June 4:** 9:00 am -12 noon

Rediscover the natural world by learning to weave with local found materials such as vines, leaves, branches, grasses, stems of flowers, tree and shrub prunings, and any natural material you can find in your garden, field, or by the road!

Throughout human history and in all cultures, people have created shelters, clothing, storage vessels and more using the local materials around them. In all this work we find the expression of human needs and we see the expression of human desires. In this workshop we will explore a very ancient weaving process called Japanese stone weaving. It is done on a simple loom that I will provide. Weaving possibilities include wall hangings, place mats, table runners, floor mats, window shades and more.

Get ready to explore the plant world around you and create beautiful pieces using the materials that you have gathered from nature!

## Textiles and Tea Bags Workshop with Carol Ann Webster

Carol has been drawn to art her entire life and has pursued everything from pen-and-ink drawings to faux finish painting on walls, furniture and cabinets. She now uses the skills accumulated over the years to create and teach mixed media art.



She views herself as a mixed media "Alchemist," using a variety of tools, techniques and materials to make layered, aged and weathered-looking art that tells a story. She favors the idea of using things beyond their original intent, giving a scrap of fabric or bits of metal new life in a one-of-a-kind piece of art.

Carol loves sharing her knowledge and techniques with others. She has taught dozens of courses, both to artists who want to expand their range of skills and to people who don't consider themselves artists, but want to express their unique creativity. She has found that mixed media is a wonderful way to experience the joy of art in the making of – *and the sense of accomplishment in* – the finished work.



- **WORKSHOP: *Textiles and Teabags***  
**Wed, June 16:**  
9:30 am - 12:30 pm;  
**Fri, June 18:**  
9:30 am - 12:30 pm

If you enjoy using recycled, unusual materials in layers, with textures and little embellishments all stitched together, then you'll have a great time in this workshop.

During class, Carol will share her methods for preparing tea bags with

some "added extras" you may want to consider – like how to add color and "rust" marks. She'll reveal some of her favorite sources of materials and provide insight into color and design decisions.

If you are new to mixed media, this is a great chance to "start small" in telling a visual story and gain confidence to widen your creativity.

- **Workshop Fee: \$65**
- **Website: [carolannwebster.com](http://carolannwebster.com)**

Workshop registration info on Page 6. Visit our website – [www.nsn.org](http://www.nsn.org) – for registration forms and supply lists.

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Hospitality Chair	<b>Sue Miller</b>	847-975-9680	orchid1245@gmail.com
Fine Art of Fiber Chair	<b>Nona Flores</b>	847-869-1362	ncflores52@gmail.com
FAOF Assistant Chair	<b>Valerie Koppenhaver</b>	224-522-3000	koppenhaver@comcast.net
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Service Chair	<b>Gretchen Alexander</b>	847-257-2507	gretchen.alexander@sbcglobal.net
Webmaster	<b>Valerie Koppenhaver</b>	224-522-3000	koppenhaver@comcast.net
Past President	<b>Penny Burns</b>	312-590-1646	pburns@jbosh.com

## NSNG Board Nominations

Candidates for the 2021-2022 Board year have been selected. Voting will take place at our May 4 meeting. A big thank you to **Gretchen Alexander** and **Mary Jo Eckhart** for serving as the nominating committee. The nominees are:

- 2nd VP, Program Chair: **Melanie Terasaki**
- Treasurer: **Cindy Oppenheimer**
- Secretary: **Sylvia Dresser**
- Workshop Registrar: **Janet Tuzzolino**
- Hospitality Chair: **Barbara Manek**
- Membership Co-Chair: **Cynthia Boudreau**
- Membership Co-Chair: **Dee McKenna**

## Donation to Women's Group

We hope you enjoyed the travel lecture at our March meeting. Shila Desai kindly spoke "gratis" to our Guild. NSNG is pleased to announce that NSNG donated \$200 to a group which helps women. The NGO in Shantiniketan, West Bengal is called Bolpur Manab Jomin.

The women run a self help initiative in Kantha embroidery. Shila likes this organization because of its holistic approach. It strives to help all demographics – not just women – because to neglect one means unbalanced progress.

Learn about this organization at [www.bolpurmanabjomin.org](http://www.bolpurmanabjomin.org). Shila's interesting website – *Eat Your Heart Out Tours* – includes more info plus tours, events and a blog. Go to [www.eyhotours.com](http://www.eyhotours.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 dues are currently reduced to \$30 for the remainder of the membership year, which ends on July 31, 2021.
- **MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY:** The annual directory includes names and contact info for all members, calendars, NSNG By-Laws and other information about our Guild. The pdf of the 2020-2021 directory was sent to current members. Updates will be sent as needed.
- Please contact Janet if you have a change of address, phone or email address – or news about a fellow member of the Guild.

– Janet Tuzzolino, 847-707-1739 or email [jmtuzz@gmail.com](mailto:jmtuzz@gmail.com)



## Loose Ends & Gathered Threads

The newsletter of the North Suburban NeedleArts Guild is published monthly. A digital copy is sent out via email a few days before each meeting. It's also available on our website.

**The May issue will be sent out in late April.**

**(Submission deadline is April 20)**

Please contact Newsletter Editor **Jan Harrington** with Show & Tell, announcements or corrections: [janqharrington@gmail.com](mailto:janqharrington@gmail.com)

**VISIT OUR WEBSITE: [www.nsn.org](http://www.nsn.org)**

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[#northsuburbanneedleartsguild](https://www.instagram.com/northsuburbanneedleartsguild)

FACEBOOK: **North Suburban NeedleArts Guild**