

## It's time to destash!

Destashing? SABLE (Stash Accumulation Beyond Life Expectancy)? Rehoming? No matter what word or words you use, we all know about this. That beautiful fabric you have had for 20 years, but your taste has changed. Those threads that you don't remember what you planned to do with them. And so on.

When we moved from our house into a condo I thought I had done a really good job of sorting out my supplies – knitting yarns, fabrics, threads, and heaven only knows what else – and finding places for them. I wanted to have only those supplies which would fit comfortably in our new space, and I wasn't quite sure how I would arrange it all. At the time of our move, about 4 years ago, I think I did pretty well at keeping the size of my supply stash down, but of course, things have been added! I think we've all heard that saying that shopping for new supplies is a different occupation than actually using them.

As someone who works in organized chaos, I always think I know where things are, but the reality is that I do not. Going through all – or at least most – of my supplies gives me a chance to reacquaint myself with what I have and make sure I know that things are sorted according to category, so that I can actually find what I need for a project.

However, I'm working up to another good clear out. I only have that kind of energy now and then, so I plan to take advantage of it. Then comes the second part – where will it all go? I love designating things for our Freebie Table or our Service program, as I know my things will be going to someone who wants and hopefully will use them. Sometimes there are things that I know will be better used elsewhere – how to keep track of those places?

We will add a new page to our website, which should help with exactly that – a list of places to donate our supplies. We are looking to our members to suggest places to be listed – do you know of a program for kids? Incarcerated people? Seniors? Our Service program has many places to donate completed goods but not supplies. Please send your suggestions to webmaster, Valerie Koppenhaver, with name of the organization and website, if possible.

However . . . I know I had some of those little beads that I love to use for flowers, and I can't find them! Perhaps I need to go shopping?

– Sylvia Dresser, Co-President,  
sylviadresser@gmail.com



Barbara Peterson, Val Koppenhaver, Dee Alexander, Cynthia Boudreau, Diane Greening and Susan Couch (at right).

## NSNG Fishing Expedition 2026

Twenty NSNG members met informally at Kingswood Methodist Church in Deerfield on June 11 to sew colorful sardine pillows from Kristin Rauch's pattern. We had a convivial afternoon of sewing, nibbling and schmoozing in the beautifully equipped Sewing Space, hosted by Val Koppenhaver and friends. Though some of the fish are already promised to grandchildren, many will make an appearance at the group exhibit called "Catch of the Day" at the Fine Art of Fiber in November. Stay tuned – some participants are urging a Seattle-style Fish Toss at the show.

– Nona Flores



Cindie Rogers and Karen Jones.



Cynthia Karabush and Marilyn Graves.



### SUMMER POTLUCK & MEMBER CHALLENGE

Tuesday, July 21 • 11:00 am to 1:00 pm – Details on Page 2

# Member Challenge 2026

The theme of this year’s Member Challenge is “It’s a Small World”. Use your favorite technique to create something around this theme, keeping the size of your 2D entry to 12 inches X 12 inches, or your 3D entry to 12 Inches square.

All hanging pieces should have a sleeve and rod or some other means of attaching to the display board hooks. If your piece sits on a table and requires an easel or some type of stand you must provide these.

All work submitted should be the submitter’s original design (no kits, commercial charts, etc.) and should have been created within the past two years. Work that has been previously exhibited at Guild functions is discouraged. Entries must have a fiber element.

Your project will be displayed at our annual **Summer Potluck, July 21**. Members in attendance will vote for their favorite entry. You must be a member to enter and vote.



Winners will receive a certificate to be used in the next year’s NSNG workshop of their choice – \$100 First Place, \$75 Second Place, and \$50 Third Place.

All Challenge entries must be at the potluck no later than 10:00 am to allow for setup and to be included in voting. Voting

will open at 10:30 am and close at noon when all votes will be counted and Challenge winners determined.

• **DEADLINE TO ENTER IS JUNE 30.** Please email Lu Betcher if you would like to enter the challenge. Include your name, the name and size of the entry, and how you would like it displayed (hung, placed on a table, or free-standing). Once you have completed your piece, please send Lu a short artist statement, with the title of your entry, describing your work. Artist statements are due by July 11, to allow time for printing.

– Lu Betcher, Member Challenge Chair, [lubetcher@gmail.com](mailto:lubetcher@gmail.com)

## SUMMER POTLUCK & MEMBER CHALLENGE

**Tuesday, July 21 • 11:00 am to 1:00 pm  
at Gloria Dei in Northbrook**

Come to socialize and meet other members of NSNG. Participate and vote on the Member Challenge. Share your projects during Show & Tell.

**The Guild will provide an assortment of PIZZAS FROM LOU MALNATI’S.**

**Please bring an appetizer, salad, side dish or dessert and beverage of your choice.**

An email reminder will be sent a few days before. Volunteers will be needed to help Barb Maneck with set up (starting at 10:30) and clean up.

**FREEBIE TABLE • SERVICE TABLE • SHOW & TELL**



### IN-PERSON MINI WORKSHOP

## Bird Collisions in the Anthropocene with founder Holly Greenberg

• **Tues, July 21, 1:00 - 3:00 pm**

**After our Summer Potluck at Gloria Dei**

Guild members will have a chance to work with Holly Greenberg and be part of Bird Collisions in the Anthropocene’s ambitious mission of raising awareness of the plight of migratory birds.

You will replicate a real bird, using simple 4 to 5-inch pre-made bird bases. These bird bases become canvases for your creativity. All necessary materials will be supplied. The birds can be decorated with colorful fabrics, stitching, ribbons, buttons, sequins, & more, so feel free to bring your own fabric scraps and/or embellishments. Please bring your own (marked) fabric scissors.

You will not be taking your bird home as it will be part of the larger project. All of the artworks will be sewn together into a huge 300-foot-long “carpet” of birds that will travel the country as an educational art installation, raising awareness about the toll of building collisions on our bird populations.

• For more information, visit the website of Holly Greenberg, founder and director of the project (shown above).

<https://www.hollygreenberg.com/bird-collisions-anthropocene>

• A \$10 donation is requested. The Guild will also be making a donation to Bird Collisions in the Anthropocene.

• **Be sure to register if you are interested.** Send an email to Mini Workshop chair, Elizabeth Guillette, [ekguillette@gmail.com](mailto:ekguillette@gmail.com).



### Have an idea for a mini workshop?

We encourage members to share their talents by teaching a mini workshop. Email Elizabeth Guillette with questions, [ekguillette@gmail.com](mailto:ekguillette@gmail.com)

# Meet the NSNG Board



The NSNG board is installed each May for the coming year. I asked each member to tell us a bit about their creative interests and work space, and their connection to NSNG. Enjoy getting to know our great team!

I've always enjoyed working with textiles and upon retirement 14 years ago from school administration, I was committed to establishing a regular practice. My passion right now is creating in "all things felt", and stitching! Wool & silk provides endless opportunity for expression. I am an artist who typically works on one project at a time devoting my energy into a piece from beginning to end. My studio space is pretty organized! I'm glad to be back on the board. NSNG is an important part of my life, for friendship, ongoing learning, community and of course being part of Fine Art of Fiber!

– **Cynthia Boudreau**, Hospitality



I knew about NSNG years ago but I was still working full time so postponed joining the Guild until I fully retired in 2014. Since then I have relished being about to take wonderful workshops, listen to inspiring lectures and most of all, make new friends! I do many different things with fabric, thread, knitting yarn, beads and such, hopping around from one sort of project to another, with a room full of the organized chaos of materials.

– **Sylvia Dresser**, Co-President

An introvert who disguises as an extrovert. Is haunted by the many MANY unfinished projects in the closet (out of sight, unfortunately, does NOT mean out of mind). Could probably be an anchorite if a cat, a comfortable chair and a nice Chardonnay were provided.



– **Nancy Nicholson**, Co-President



I am **Cindy Oppenheimer** and have been the treasurer since 2021. I love the diversity of talents and topics that make up NSNG! It matches my style of trying out new techniques and mediums. Which is also reflected in my helter-skelter workspace and supply stash. Picture is of me with an in-progress self-portrait.



I am **Lu Betcher**, chair of the Member Challenge, a position that allows me to encourage members to share their creativity with others in the group. While most know me as a knitter, I also spend my creative time working on fabric collage, my favorite materials sourced from the NSNG Freebie Table!



I am **Barb Maneck**, chair for Special Events. I host the Summer picnic and the Holiday party. My studio is organized chaos throughout my house and I'm always looking to NSNG for inspiration. Behind me is an arial view of sunflower fields using stitch in the ditch quilting.



I have had a needle of one type or another in my hand since the age of 7, doing every type of needlework from embroidery to needle lace to bookbinding to bead weaving and bead embroidery to quilt making. I joined the Guild after I moved to Chicago 11 years ago and by pure chance fell upon the Fine Art of Fiber show at the Botanic Garden. I had found my people!! I filled out the membership form on the spot and have been thrilled to be part of this wonderful group ever since, treasuring the community and inspiration it provides.

– **Candace Rich**, Service Chair

# Meet the NSNG Board



Hi, I'm **Rona Pietrzak**, Co-2nd Vice President with Jil. It's our job to select the workshop instructors/presenters for 2027-28. I joined NSNG about 5 years ago because the other members were talented, warm, and inviting, and because I engage in a variety of needlework – mostly non-traditional quilts and hand embroidery. I love adding stone and wood embellishments. I am definitely a dabbler, but I lean toward techniques that I have some hope of mastering at least a little – for instance, I stay away from basketry and knitting! My workspace is (barely) controlled chaos, although it has definitely been improved by adding great lighting and a design wall.



I'm very excited to be on the board as 2nd VP with Rona. An inactive member of the Guild throughout the years (off and on), I now really want to get to know more people and participate more fully. I've been back in the Chicago area for 30 years after living in France for about 16 years (again, off and on) with my French husband and our four (now adult) sons. My interest is primarily quilting but am intrigued by (almost) everything.

– **Jil Levin Deheeger**

I joined NSNG in 2006 after I discovered art quilts on HGTV. I am mostly self taught, but quickly learned the benefit of being able to take classes with “name” artists locally through the guild. I do like to try different things and have the supplies to prove it! I have a large studio space above our garage which gets messy to a point, but I keep it pretty organized. I am thrilled to be back on the Board after a two year absence; it is a great group dedicated to making NSNG one of the premier guilds anywhere.

– **Luan Wold**, Workshop Registrar

I'm **Karen Jones**, Membership Chair. I joined NSNG because of the amazing art I always see at the Fine Art of Fiber, the wonderful members and the exciting opportunity to learn new ways of advancing my skill set. I enjoy sewing and embellishing. Currently, letting go of perfectionism is a top priority when I start and finish a project.



I'm a board member because I was asked to join the board to do programming (2nd VP) in 2023. It was a big challenge and a great learning experience. I work in glass, do some ceramic work and I wanted to get back to doing more fiber work. I enjoy the variety of workshops NSNG offers and I try to incorporate new things I've learned into my work. It takes a while to process new techniques, but it helps me expand my artistic vision. Being on the board has made me aware of all the different things NSNG does, and how it takes a dedicated group of people to make it all happen.



– **Cheryl Reynolds-Fefles**, Secretary



After I retired several years ago I completed the Master Gardener training at the Chicago Botanic Garden (to ease the transition from a high stress job to retirement bliss). I then volunteered at the Butterfly Tent for many years and now know quite a bit about butterflies and moths. I also was able to spend a lot more time on my art, mostly surface design and quilting. Here is a recent photo of my yard, where I'm often found drinking coffee and daydreaming.

– **Al Krueger**, 1st Vice President

# Meet the NSNG Board



I chair the Steering Committee for the Fine Art of Fiber which coordinates the activities and volunteers from the 3 guilds participating in our annual November show at the Chicago Botanic Garden. When I joined NSNG in 2016, I was totally cowed by all the overachieving talented women who surrounded me at the meetings – I still am cowed. This is my new sewing room: everytime I walk in, another pile of fabric slides to the floor--it makes me cry. – **Nona Flores**

Hi - I'm **Valerie Koppenhaver**, your Webmaster. I am mostly a sewist – garments, wallhangings, the occasional coat, and I also love machine embroidery. I established The Sewing Space, where our service arm of the NSNG does their volunteering and love spending every Tuesday with that sector of our members as they sew things for others that help improve lives all over the Chicagoland. I am wearing a Nuno felted vest done in an NSNG workshop with Natasha Lehrer from Ether's Place. The ice-dyed sweatshirt was made with a free Mood Fabrics pattern, with machine embroidery leaves, and coordinating purple denim draw-string skirt.



I always keep a sketchbook nearby to play with patterns and design. It's fun to revisit pages from the past. The words I added to my hand tracing in 2013 ring true for my creative life, and apply to our Guild as well. Many of us love to explore and discover new materials and techniques, awaken long lost skills or interests and imagine what we can create next. I dabble in sewing (especially hand stitching on repurposed wool sweaters and using vintage fabrics), ceramics, weaving and paper arts. My studio is my whole house!

– **Jan Harrington**, Newsletter Editor since 2019

As a child I was never encouraged to use any kind of fiber arts or crafts. My parents wanted me to concentrate on academics. After doing a tour of four colleges in the Boston area, I needed an outlet for relaxing. I took a class in knitting, which I was good at. I knitted for about twenty years but carpal tunnel syndrome stopped me. Now I am spending time in natural fabric dying, with food scraps and anything else I can find my hands on. I also do wire wrapping and metal smithing. My other activity is polishing and tumbling rocks to use in my jewelry making. I started with clay, along the way I fell in love with fiber, and rocks.



– **Elizabeth Guillette**, Mini Workshop Chair

Hi, my name is **Frances Krueger-Jackson**. I am the publicity person on NSNG's Board as well as one of the photographers for the Fine Art of Fiber. I joined NSNG in 2012. I am a felter and I also do embroidery, fabric dyeing/printing, and fabric collage (amongst other things).



I am **Ronna Leibach** and I represent the Fine Art of Fiber Boutique on the Board. I enjoy many of the workshops to enhance my silk painting and fabric surface designs. My work area is never orderly until I finish a project.

See the last page of this newsletter for a complete list of our board members, their positions and contact info (for your personal use only).



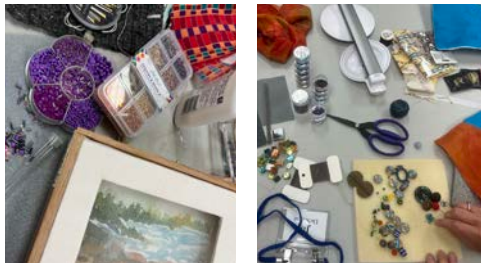
Project by Diane Skidmore.

## Embellished Reliquaries with Lisa Binkley

This class, and Lisa, have been amazing! While we are all working in the same cigar box, the pieces could not be more different. We even have a couple people who have never beaded and are coming along in their projects. My favorite part about a class with Lisa is her ability to be a resource for every one of the disparate projects we bring. Her teaching style is so clear and her individual "conferences" are so helpful. — Janet Tuzzolino



Lisa Binkley helping Candace Rich mix the correct color paint for her cigar box during our 4-day Summer Seminar.



Beads galore on the work stations of Jane M. Mason and Jil Levin Deheeger.



Taking a class from Lisa is pure joy - she is so helpful and creative and makes sure that everyone gets her attention. The piece I made showcases one of my mother's handkerchiefs, and is a gift for my great niece, Leora. One of my challenges was to create something that used colors that were more my mother's palette than my own.

— Sylvia Dresser

## Lesley Riley Substack

This newsletter from Lesley Riley on June 8th was very helpful to me! Titled, *When the Feeling's Gone, My get up and go got up and went...* Other members might appreciate reading it, too. The concept of fallow times feeding future creativity gave me a sense of relief instead of self-doubt. Her Substack is called *Further to Fly*. You do not need to pay to read it, although you can help an artist by being a paid subscriber.

— Janet Tuzzolino

• <https://lesleyriley.substack.com/p/when-the-feelings-gone>

## Fabric Bonanza • July 11

Project Linus has a mountain of fabric to give away! Come to the Fabric Bonanza at Glori Dei on Saturday, July 11, from 9:30 - 10:30 am. See attached flyer for details. RSVP by July 5 by sending an email to [linuschicagoland@gmail.com](mailto:linuschicagoland@gmail.com)

## Tapestry exhibit in Evanston

The Evanston Art Center, 1717 Central Street, always has interesting exhibits. The current juried show from the American Tapestry Alliance, called *Thinking Through Tapestry*, highlights work illustrating the close relationship between tapestry weaving, drawing, painting, and sculpture. Now through June 28.

• <https://www.evanstonartcenter.org/exhibitions>

## Nature show in Bloomingdale

The Nature Artist Guild of the Morton Arboretum will have an exhibition at the Bloomingdale Art Museum from August 8 to September 12. Don't miss this beautiful nature focused multimedia art show! Open Wed, Thur and Sat, but call to confirm hours: (630) 339-3570, 108 S. Bloomingdale Road, Bloomingdale

— Cynthia Boudreau

Here is my piece from the Pat Pauly workshop in May. I learned a lot and now I know what to do with the fabric I print based on her print class. Thanks for scheduling her. Every fabric was printed by me except the orange dot fabric. I took Pat's printing class 2 years ago in Santa Fe. She presented an overwhelming amount of techniques (for this old lady) but I have been printing using them in my dye studio and getting better at it. It's all about layering color and a diversity of color value. Will do more printing this summer.

— Jody Wilke



## SHOW & TELL:

We like to see your projects! Show your work at our meetings. Or send photos and descriptions to Newsletter Editor, Jan Harrington, [janqharrington@gmail.com](mailto:janqharrington@gmail.com)

**The next newsletter will go out at the end of August before our Sept 1st meeting**

## Countdown to Fine Art of Fiber!

Spend some of those hot humid days of summer indoors finishing your project(s) for this year's Fine Art of Fiber show, to be held at the Chicago Botanic Garden from 10:00 am - 5:00 pm, on Friday, November 6 through Sunday, November 8.

A new guide, "How to Prepare Your Submission to Hang on a Wall in the Exhibit," has replaced the rod pocket instructions on the website, under Forms: <https://fineartoffiber.org/guild-member-forms/>

### HERE ARE SOME KEY DATES:

**July 1:** Instructions and application forms for the Exhibit, Boutique and Fashion Show go live on our website. A perk of guild membership is that your #1 submission gets into the show as long as it conforms to Garden and show guidelines.

**September 2:** Applications for the Boutique are due to Ronna Leibach

**September 12:** Individual and group applications for the Exhibit are due to Chris Deering. In addition to completing the forms online, physical copies must accompany 4" x 6" color photos of submissions to Chris.

**September 12:** SignUp Genius opens for volunteer signups.

**November 4:** Drop-off and set-up for the Boutique

**November 5:** Drop-off and set-up for the Exhibit.

Thanks for the strong positive response to our proposed new slide show initiative for those in the Exhibit, "Meet the Makers: Show and Tell." Later this summer you will receive full instructions about the information and photos you need to submit

via email to me in order to participate. Keep an eye out on your InBox in August! 90% of Silent Auction sales go back to benefit the donor's guild(s) so please give

generously. Chris Deering and Gretchen Alexander are accepting donations now. The form to accompany them is available on the website.

Wishing you a creative summer.

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



**Fine Art of Fiber WEBSITE:**  
<https://fineartoffiber.org>

## Summer Sewing

The Sewing Space will continue to operate throughout the summer. Come join us to work on projects such as port pillows, pillowcases, lap robes, quilts, and other small items. Doors open at 10 am every Tuesday (except July 21st when we have our potluck at Gloria Dei). Come any time, stay as long as you wish, and enjoy fellowship and treats. We wrap up by 2 pm, so you still have the rest of the afternoon to enjoy the summer weather. Hope to see you there!

– Candace Rich, Service Chair,  
[glasspath48@gmail.com](mailto:glasspath48@gmail.com)

### THE SEWING SPACE

Kingswood United Methodist Church  
600 Deerfield Rd, Deerfield  
Tuesdays, 10:00 am - 2:00 pm  
(except NSNG meeting days).

Contact Valerie Koppenhaver with questions,  
[valerie@thesewingspace.org](mailto:valerie@thesewingspace.org)  
• The Sewing Space website:  
<https://thesewingspace.org/>

Do you know that we have  
a **FACEBOOK** page?

Share your work and stories of interest.  
Search North Suburban NeedleArts Guild  
on Facebook and ask to join.

## NSNG WORKSHOP REGISTRATION INFORMATION & POLICIES

Online registration opens Sept 1st for January and February virtual workshops.

Be sure to renew your annual membership online first, so you are eligible to register, at [www.nsn.org](http://www.nsn.org)

• Workshop Registration is made available to NSNG members before being made open to the general public.

• Registrants must have a fully paid NSNG membership and a current Participant Agreement on file in order to qualify for the member price for a workshop.

• The number of participants in a workshop is determined by the instructor and is not open to NSNG's discretion.

### Workshop Registration Procedure:

• Space in the workshop cannot be guaranteed or held without payment.

### Registration and Payment:

• Payment is made by credit card online at

our website, [NSNG.org](http://NSNG.org)

• If the workshop is full, you can request to be put on the waiting list.

### Non-Members:

• A non-member must pay an additional \$20 fee and have a current Participant Agreement on file.

### Waiting List:

• In the event that all spaces in a workshop are filled, a waiting list will be started for that workshop; there is no charge to be on the waiting list.

• A potential registrant on the waiting list will be contacted if a currently registered participant wants to sell their spot.

• The sale must be transacted through the Workshop Registrar. Workshop registrations are not transferable.

• If there is no waiting list for the workshop, no refund is available.

### Supply Lists:

• A supply list is available for each workshop on the NSNG website.

• The supply list and logistics are sent in a reminder email to the workshop participants about a month in advance of the workshop.

Direct inquiries to Workshop Registrar,  
**Luan Wold,**  
[luanwold@gmail.com](mailto:luanwold@gmail.com)



## Artist David Taylor

David Taylor was born in Peterborough, NH, and currently resides in Fort Collins, CO. He has been the recipient of the Fairfield Master Award for Contemporary Quilting from the International Quilt Association (2006, 2014), the Brother Wall Machine Workmanship Award from the American Quilters Society (2008), the Director's Award at Road to California (2022), and a two-time Best-of-Show winner at IQA's Spring Festival in Chicago (2007, 2008), among others. His art quilts hang in numerous private collections.



David 'semi-retired' from his career as a computer graphic artist in July 2009. Since that time, he has enjoyed teaching his appliqué and quilting techniques throughout the world. He has logged more than 300,000 actual flight miles (twelve times the circumference of Planet Earth), journeying to 47 of these United States, five countries, three continents, and 1,000 quilt shops (well, maybe not a thousand - but close).

• WEBSITE: [www.davidtaylorartquilts.com](http://www.davidtaylorartquilts.com)



### HYBRID LECTURE:

**Tues, Sept 1, 9:30 am (CT)**

#### *50 Years of Pictorial Appliqué*

A natural storyteller, David Taylor will share images of his pictorial appliqué quilts with humorous anecdotes about each one and his creative process. This oral history of the progression from his first quilt top (made in high school) to his current master works some 50 years later, will keep the audience in stitches.

### IN-PERSON WORKSHOP:

#### *Feathered Friends: Pictorial Appliqué*

**FEE: \$135**

**Tues, Sept 1: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

**Wed, Sept 2: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm**

**Thurs, Sept 3: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm**

The focus of this class is to rethink the traditional appliqué process. We will create highly detailed images by using simple shapes and by letting fabric create texture to give the image a "painted" effect using a layered appliqué technique.

*"I breathe, so I buy fabric.*

*Because I have fabric, I make quilts.*

*Because I need to buy more fabric,*

*I sell all of my quilts.*

*It's a vicious cycle."*

*– David Taylor*

# Studio Artist Susan Lenz

Susan Lenz is a professional artist who uses needle and thread for self-expression. She works to articulate the accumulated memory in discarded things, seeking a partnership with her materials, their purposes, values, and familial associations.

For Susan's Found Object Mandala series, she uses multiples of seemingly mundane items - paper clips, keys, bottle caps, buttons, nails, plastic spoons, and old clock parts are combined with dominoes, film reels, old toys, and holiday decorations. These and so many other- often vintage items -



are receptively hand stitched into meditative patterns on sections of old quilts, bringing an extraordinary new life to otherwise everyday things.

Susan's work has appeared in national publications, numerous juried exhibitions, and fine craft shows. Her solo installations have been mounted all over the country including the Mesa Contemporary Museum of Art and

as far away as the Festival of Quilts in Birmingham, England. Her work is in the Textile Museum in Washington, DC, and the McKissick Museum in SC. Susan is represented by the Grovewood Gallery in Asheville, NC.

## ARTIST'S STATEMENT:

Generally using needle and thread for self-expression, I work to articulate the accumulated memory inherent in discarded things. I seek a partnership with my materials, their purposes, values, and familiar associations. Memory, universal mortality, and personal legacy are central themes. Vintage and recycled materials are combined with meticulous handwork and self-guided, free-motion machine embroidery.

• WEBSITE: <http://susanlenz.com/>



*"I am drawn to textiles for their tactile qualities and often make work that is meant to touch – and be touched."* – Susan Lenz

## HYBRID LECTURE: Tues, Oct 6: 9:30 am (CT) *Found Object Mandalas*

Susan started stitching her found object mandalas during the pandemic. It was her way to deal with a changing world and adapt to virtual opportunities that replaced in-person exhibitions and events. For Susan, using multiples of seemingly mundane objects puts into perspective the abundance of life. Susan will share the process she employs from finding the unique items to mounting the finished stitching.

## IN-PERSON WORKSHOP: *One Woman's Trash Transformed* FEE: \$335



**Tues, Oct 6: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**  
**Wed, Oct 7: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm**  
**Thurs, Oct 8: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm**

This workshop is aimed at the transformation of found objects and materials – following the popular mantra: Recycle, Reduce, Reuse. Demonstrations and materials will be provided including:

- 1) Transforming wooden thread spools into holiday ornaments
- 2) Tagging old keys with inspirational words/phrases and fitting them into shadowbox frames
- 3) Zigzag stitching neglected yarn into cording and fiber vessels

- 4) Cutting up Susan's older artwork and/or other 2D art into greeting cards
- 5) Using scraps of fusible-backed fabrics to fill pre-cut mats and
- 6) Creating a Found Object Mandala.

Time will be spent on individual critiques and open discussions on inspiration, professional development, and the working life of a studio artist. Susan's thirty-year background as a certified custom picture framer will enhance the workshop. Materials and use of equipment are included. Participants are encouraged to bring a few non-precious keepsakes and other small items to include in your projects.



## Artist Gail Crosman Moore

Gail Crosman Moore is an award-winning multi disciplinary artist, bringing many years of experience and education, both as a teacher and student. Her BFA from Mass College of Art was in art education, which allowed her to explore the entire spectrum of the visual and tactile arts, and to build a love of surface, form, texture and color that transcends any one media. She has taught students of all ages and abilities, and has a wide following of admirers who are willing to cross disciplines to work with her.



Her work has been recognized and awarded through publication in many trade magazines including *Ornament*, *Beadwork*, *Bead and Button*, *Lamagga*, and several books have included her work in felt, glass, metals and paper. Awards include Saul Bell, 2009, an ART Grant and invitations to teach abroad which include trips to Japan, Switzerland, Netherlands, Denmark, Great Britain, Lithuania and the Bahamas.

Seeds, pods, bones, cocoons, shells, cells and eggs; the evidence of lives previously lived or in the process of becoming, are some of what capture her attention and drive her to interpret the forms that embody the essence of emergence, evolution and potential.

Although Gail’s work has spanned many different fields and materials, a lifelong obsession with the essential, ancient seed pod has informed her work in all media. Whether she is painting, hammering, folding, sewing, or working in fire, it doesn’t matter what materials are in her hands – it’s certain that the varied forms of the Pod, the vessel of life, will emerge.

• WEBSITE: [www.gailcrosmanmoore.com](http://www.gailcrosmanmoore.com)

### HYBRID LECTURE: Tues, Nov 10: 9:30 am (CT) *Nature as Nurture and Muse*

Gail’s lecture is series of images of her inspirations, followed by the work generated through influence. There is a richness on many levels regarding Gail’s rudimentary forms of inspiration. Pods, eggs, seeds and seashells serve to hide, conceal and protect a vulnerable interior as it offers unseen potential: opening doors to hope, beauty and mystery. Gail’s pieces come from a place where biology and botany might meet time travel.

### IN-PERSON WORKSHOP:

#### *A Marriage of Shrink Plastic and Wool – Exploring Texture, Style, Form*

**FEE: \$250**

**Tues, Nov 10: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm**

**Wed, Nov 11: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm**

**Thurs, Nov 12: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm**



In the workshop, we will be exploring two materials in particular: wool and shrink plastic. Our job will be to explore both materials, changing the shape of plastic using molds and holding wool in shape with gelatin. In keeping with our “commitment to embroidery” we can create holes in the plastic before shrinking, letting us sew through them.

• Gail will supply all materials.

*It’s the yin-yang, push-pull, hard-soft, shiny-matte, cold-warm dichotomy that intrigues her and calls her to juxtapose many different materials.*

# Textile Artist Mirjam Gielen

Mirjam Gielen is a Dutch textile artist creating organic embroidery. She is inspired by nature, especially by its patterns, colors and textures. She often creates new, imaginary images derived from what she sees in the natural world. Her preference for natural colors prompted her to start eco dyeing and eco printing. Mirjam finds that the randomness of eco prints results in a surface that invites intuitive stitching and encourages a dialogue with the fabric.



Mirjam started her career as a textile artist while writing books for children and young adults. Making “wordless” art with threads and fabrics turned out to be the idea way to refresh her brain in between chapters and double her creativity. Over the years this practice grew into something more serious.

Sharing her process, her knowledge and experience with others makes her happy.

Sharing her process, her knowledge and experience with others makes her happy.

• WEBSITE: [www.patreon.com/cw/mirjamtextiles](http://www.patreon.com/cw/mirjamtextiles)

### A note from Mirjam to NSNG:

“I loved working with your group in January, 2025. There was a lot of enthusiasm, but also mutual support and a relaxed atmosphere. Even though we were many miles apart, it was easy to connect. I was overwhelmed by the creativity and inventiveness of the members. They created unique pieces that showed how quickly they absorbed the workshop and could translate that into personal interpretation. I’m looking forward very much to stitching together again.”



### VIRTUAL LECTURE:

Tues, Jan 5: 9:30 am (CT)

*The Benefits of Hand Embroidery: What You Put into It and What You Get Out of It*

There is a lot to tell about hand stitching being beneficial for your well being in many aspects (quite a bit of scientific research), but there can be the other side like your inner critic holding you back, past experiences, feeling in competition with others, etc. Mirjam will address both sides, from personal experience.



### VIRTUAL WORKSHOP: *Versatility of the Running Stitch* FEE: \$65

Tues, Jan 5: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm (CT)

Wed, Jan 6: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm (CT)

Thurs, Jan 7: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm (CT)

In this workshop participants will explore the versatility of the running stitch. First by making a sample piece with several variations on the running stitch in a free style. This will help to experience the possibilities of this stitch and at the same time to feel at home with a free, organic style of stitching. Central in this sample will be the stacked running stitch, a variation of the running stitch that is used in Indian Kantha stitching. With this stitch you can create organic patterns reminiscent of ripples in water or sand on the beach, but also tree bark or the patterns of animal skins like zebra.

We will create a small triangular scent



bag together, decorated with running stitch in one of the variations from the sample.

After that we will stitch on a felt dryer ball with the stacked running stitch but if participants want to use this stitch on something else, a piece of clothing for instance, that is also a possibility.

# Beading Artist Heather Kingsley-Heath

Heather Kingsley-Heath is a British artist with a background in design, and a long-standing passion for the handmade. Heather explores the creative possibilities of both beadwork and textiles,



often combining many techniques into mixed media creations.

Known for her distinctive use of color, texture, and form, she combines her continuing research of traditional craftsmanship; with a contemporary aesthetic to create pieces that are both intricate and contemplative. Heather has developed a practice rooted in tradition and imagination, inspiring others to discover the creative potential of beads and textiles as art forms. She continues to explore how materials,

process, and meaning intertwine in the language of making.

Based in the United Kingdom, her work is exhibited, published, and taught internationally.

• WEBSITE: <https://heatherworks.co.uk/>

## VIRTUAL LECTURE: Tues, Feb 2: 9:30 am (CT)

### *The Interaction of Influence in the Works of Gustav Klimt*

As an introduction to the workshop “Sublime Geometry,” the lecture explores the work of Gustav Klimt, the influences and the narrative which surrounded the artist both in his studio and in the wider context of the period in which he lived.

Taking influence as a theme, and the complexities of interaction, influence and the slightly more controversial cultural appropriation, we explore the wider concept of how inspiration from the past can be used as a tool to generate contemporary work in an honest and original way.



## VIRTUAL WORKSHOP:

*Sublime Geometry* FEE: \$45

Tues, Feb 2: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm (CT)

Wed, Feb 3: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm (CT)

Thurs, Feb 4: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm (CT)

First created as a masterclass for the Beadworkers Guild in the UK, this is a workshop to explore inspiration and interpretation with seed beads.

There are several layers to the class, which takes students on a journey through the thought processes and experiments that take a source of inspiration into finished contemporary beadwork. To develop an understanding how to use source material, Klimt’s use of pattern and colour in his portraits provide discussion points for symbolism, and layered meaning.

The interpretation of color from one medium to another, examines four Klimt portraits to provide both motif and color inspiration. Color work includes creating a color palette, and how to distribute color to enhance the beaded shapes.

The beading is a series of flat beaded shapes, with further inspiration for how to create, plan and combine them. The shapes can also be linked, or used to make three dimensional forms.

The resolution is to create new beadwork from the information gathered. I supply step by step instructions for several shapes and techniques and students will be able to copy a class sample or create their own combinations.

For students to gain maximum enjoyment from the class, a basic working knowledge of beading with seed beads and thread is required. Techniques are explained with step-by-step diagrams for each of the beadwork shapes.

***“I work with beadwork and textiles to explore how materials can tell stories. A story has many layers: the simple delight in a delicious combination of colors and textures; the meaning attached to a particular element; a response to an event, place, object or relationship.”***

– Heather Kingsley-Heath

# Textile Artist Jennifer Reis

“I create embellished textile assemblages that investigate the ornamentation and armoring of female bodies sited in a Catholic aesthetic. My work marries traditional sewing, embroidery and embellishing techniques and materials with found objects to create decorative, iconic objects that exist as female power figures. The textile works are all hand-sewn and beaded, created through a slow-art process. The creative act is a meditative process of



hand stitching and beaded, echoing traditional liturgical garment embellishment.

My work concerns the female form as an ornamented and empowered form existing within a ritualized context. As an artist, my point of view is inspired and informed by fashion, feminism, and a Catholic aesthetic rooted in my upbringing as a German-American. Fashion has been a constant personal and socio-cultural interest of mine from a very young age.

Designers/artists like Alexander McQueen and Iris Van Herpen epitomize the concept of fashion as both armor and decoration that inspire me. Feminism is embedded as I intend to create images of the feminine as beautiful warrior.

Being exposed to German Baroque religious architecture, art, and iconography as a young person has influenced the excessively embellished and iconic format consistently utilized as visual forms in the body of work. The intention of the works is to exist in the world as objects of beautiful power.”

Currently, Jennifer Reis is a professor at UNC-Greensboro and is on the teaching roster of the Virginia Commission for the Arts.

• WEBSITE: [www.jenniferannreis.com/](http://www.jenniferannreis.com/)



## HYBRID LECTURE: Tues, March 2: 9:30 am (CT) *Domestic Unrest: Embellished Textiles and Mixed Media Works*

Textile and mixed media artist Jennifer Reis will give a lecture on her process, concepts, and inspirations that inform her body of work centering around female imagery and social commentary.

## IN-PERSON WORKSHOP: *Embellished Textile Collage* FEE: \$215

Tues, March 2: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm • Wed, March 3: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm • Thurs, March 4: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm



Textile art practices – including art quilting – are increasingly incorporating the unlimited potential of using mixed media to enrich and enliven through unique surface design. In this class, embellished textile techniques applique, quilting, thread and bead embroidery, and utilizing photographic images are just a few of art textile techniques students will learn and incorporate into projects.

Students will create two primary projects: 1) a technique sampler, and 2) a self-directed artwork utilizing textile surface design skills.

Through the technique sampler, students explore how to utilize textile techniques to create fine art objects, and will learn the following skills: hand sewing, traditional and raw appliqué, hand embroidery techniques, hand beading and embellishing with traditional and non-traditional materials, shi-sha mirror and sequin application, individual consultation on basic principles of color and composition, and presentation of finished artwork.

Students will then develop, design, and create personalized mini textile artwork.

# Artist Pat Baum Bishop

Pat Bishop is a mixed media artist using paint, fabric, an iron and a sewing machine, whose work is mostly abstract. She teaches, lectures and exhibits in fine art and fiber art exhibits. She has written articles for numerous publications and has appeared on Quilting Arts TV, TheQuiltShow.com and TextileArtist.com.

She has been making art and sewing all her life, now living in Shawano, WI. She gets much of her inspiration from nature and her work is a reflection of her interest in nature preservation and a desire to use her art as a way to preserve memories.



### ARTIST'S STATEMENT:

Working with textiles gives results that can be challenging and pleasingly unpredictable which feeds my desire to be a problem solver. Being out in the woods, near the water, investigating plants, trees, birds and other living creatures feeds my creativity. My work is not exactly planned, though there is a feeling that I'm trying to express. Simplicity and abstraction are my driving forces. Use of texture, simple shapes and color are integral to my process.

One very true description of my work by Mary Carson of TextileArtist.org states "simplification isn't just an abstract art technique. It's her superpower! Pat's art quilts truly prove less is more, and her ability to combine limited details with bold colours and shapes packs a serious punch."

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• WEBSITE: [www.patbishop.info/](http://www.patbishop.info/)

### HYBRID LECTURE: Tues, April 13: 9:30 am (CT)

#### *Creative? Me? Yes you are!*

I will talk about how we are all creative but don't recognize it as creativity. In this trunk show I will point out how problem solving is basically using your creativity to come up with different solutions. It seems I am always trying to solve problems along the way. Whether our creativity shows itself in how we dress, how we decorate our home, how we talk to others, cooking and gardening, it all takes creativity. I will give tips on how to encourage the creativity within each of us.



### IN-PERSON WORKSHOP:

#### *Abstraction Distraction*

**FEE: \$140**

<b>Tues, April 13:</b>	<b>1:00 pm – 4:00 pm</b>
<b>Wed, April 14:</b>	<b>9:30 am – 4:00 pm</b>
<b>Thurs, April 15:</b>	<b>9:30 am – 4:00 pm</b>

In this class you will learn what abstract is and how to think abstractly. Expand your creativity with no quilting rules or rulers. This is not a class for perfectionists, come with an open mind and a sense of adventure. Fusing is our main technique, completed with machine quilting, which can be free motion or not.

We will explore different ways of starting your abstract creations and will focus on "simplification" as one method to get

your juices flowing. You can take it from there in any direction you choose. My goal is to remove the fear of failure and help you be successful.

We will talk about methods of quilting, and finishing and mounting your piece.

# Quilter Sujata Shah

While growing up in India, rich colors, hand woven textiles and hand-crafts were part of Sujata Shah's daily life. She learned to appreciate the irregularities and imperfections of handmade crafts. Her instinctive ability to work with colors and textures combined with education in graphic design has helped her develop a unique style as a quilt designer.



Sujata is an award-winning quilter and designer. She finds inspiration in the rich handmade tradition of her home country, India, the quilts of Gees Bend, Indian and American utilitarian quilts, and African textiles.

As a calligraphy major, she believes that each handmade craft has a stamp of the maker. Through her book, *Cultural Fusion Quilts*, she introduced free-form blocks,

an abstract interpretation of traditional quilt blocks to reflect her theory.

Talking about the process of finishing quilts, she says, "I find hand stitching therapeutic and nourishing to the soul. I rarely have a plan before the start of a quilt. Designing a quilt is an evolving process. I believe as the quilt evolves, I simply become the instrument in the making of that quilt."

• WEBSITE: <https://therootconnection.blogspot.com/>

***"Through my quilts I remain connected to my past, my culture and heritage. The more I hand stitch, stories of my daily life get stitched into my quilts."***

– Sujata Shah



## HYBRID LECTURE: Tues, May 4: 9:30 am (CT)

### *The Root Connection – My Journey as a Quilter*

Join Sujata as she shares her quilts and talks about her daily life as a quilter. How somewhere during the making of each quilt, whether it is the fabric selection, constructing the quilt top, or finishing the quilt by hand, she ends up writing stories in stitches.

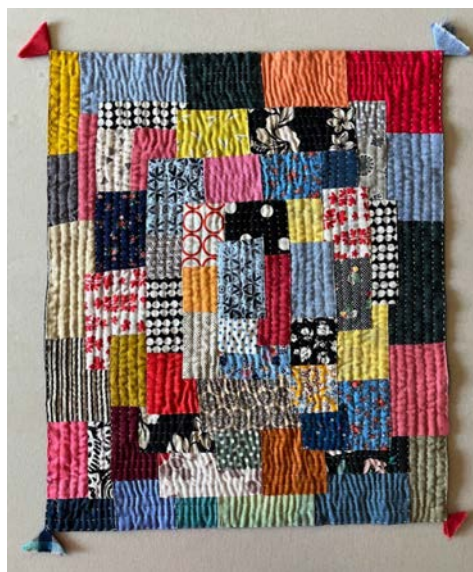
Her presentation includes a slide show of her travels in India as well as her journey as a quilter. The slide show is followed by the trunk show of original quilts. She will share how she connects the dots between the memories of the past and today's creative process.

## IN-PERSON WORKSHOP: *Improv Patchwork – Free Form Blocks and Kawandi* FEE: \$265

Tues, May 4: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm • Wed, May 5: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm • Thurs, May 6: 9:30 am – 4:00 pm

**Improv Patchwork:** This workshop invites students to explore and construct a series of free-form blocks in a variety of sizes. You'll learn Sujata's layered cutting and organic piecing method—a process that's unique, fast, and fun. By the end, each student will take home at least six well-constructed blocks, which can become a small sampler quilt or evolve into an art quilt featuring one of the blocks from class. Along the way, we'll dive into the origins of these designs, the stories behind the quilts, and Sujata's approach to color and texture.

Students will also be encouraged to develop their own techniques further, carrying these ideas into future improv works. This class is as much about inspiration and discovery as it is about hands-on construction.



**Kawandi:** Sujata will also teach how to create a Kawandi (at left), a utility quilt made by the African diaspora/Siddi community of India. A spool of thread and a needle, a few scraps and mindful stitching combined with a simple technique are the only elements needed for this age-old art of quilting.

Learn the step-by-step process and unique way to make a quilt. Through the experience of true improvisational process, we will discover how to harmonize our minds and bodies with the rhythm of stitching. Explore different ways of personalizing a quilt, to breathe easy, and write your own stories in stitches.

*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.*

## 2026 CALENDAR

NSNG Meetings are held at 9:30 am (CT) on Tuesday mornings at Gloria Dei Lutheran Church, 1133 Pfingston, Northbrook, followed by a 2.5 day workshop. **All are also offered on Zoom**, with January and February meetings and workshops on ZOOM only.

• **July 21: 11:00 am - 1:00 pm**  
**Summer Potluck/Member Challenge**

• **July 21: 1:00 - 3:00 pm**  
*Bird Collisions in the Anthropocene*  
mini workshop with Holly Greenberg

### Key Dates for Fine Art of Fiber:

**July 1:** Instructions and application forms for the Exhibit, Boutique and Fashion Show go live on our website.

<https://fineartoffiber.org/>

**Sept 2:** Applications for the Boutique are due to Ronna Leibach

**Sept 12:** Individual and group applications for the Exhibit are due to Chris Deering.

**Sept 12:** SignUp Genius opens for volunteer signups.

**Nov 4:** Drop-off and set-up for the Boutique

**Nov 5:** Drop-off and set-up for the Exhibit

**Nov 6 - 8: Fine Art of Fiber Show**

### Meeting Dates for 2026 - 2027

Details in this newsletter and on our website, [www.nsng.org](http://www.nsng.org)

- Sept 1, workshop Sept 1-3
- Oct 6, workshop Oct 6-8
- Nov 10, workshop Nov 10-12
- Dec 1: Holiday Potluck/Member Sale
- Jan 5, 2027, virtual workshop Jan 5-7
- Feb 2, virtual workshop Feb 2-4
- March 2, workshop March 2-4
- April 13, workshop April 13-15
- May 4, workshop May 4-6
- July 20: Summer Potluck/Member Challenge

• Our membership year ends on July 31, so be sure to renew your membership to receive the Sept newsletter and attend meetings this fall!

<https://nsng.org/membership/>

• **NEWSLETTER:** The NSNG newsletter is published monthly (except for July and Aug) and sent digitally to all members a few days before each meeting. It is also available on our website, [www.nsng.org](http://www.nsng.org). A Zoom link for our meetings will be sent with the newsletter. Send submissions for Show & Tell and other articles by the 3rd week of the previous month to Newsletter Editor, **Jan Harrington**, [janqharrington@gmail.com](mailto:janqharrington@gmail.com).

• **MEMBERSHIP:** Annual membership dues are \$52. Our membership year starts on Aug 1 and ends the following July 31. **If you have a change of address, phone or email address**, contact Membership Chair: **Karen Jones**, [souldprod50@gmail.com](mailto:souldprod50@gmail.com)

• **MEMBERSHIP DIRECTORY:** A digital directory will be sent to all members in the fall. It includes names and contact info for members, calendars, by-laws and other information about NSNG. Updates will be made as needed. **It is for your personal use only!**

• **WEBSITE & FACEBOOK:** Our website – [www.nsng.org](http://www.nsng.org) – includes info about programs and workshops, service opportunities, and more. Registration for workshops and membership renewals are all done on our website. Share your work and stories of interest on our **FACEBOOK** page: North Suburban NeedleArts Guild.

• **MINI WORKSHOPS** are taught by NSNG members. If you are interested in teaching a class, contact Mini-Workshop Chair: **Elizabeth Guillette**, [ekguillette@gmail.com](mailto:ekguillette@gmail.com)

• **IN-PERSON EVENTS AND WORKSHOPS** are held at **Gloria Dei Lutheran Church** (1133 Pfingston Rd, Northbrook) unless otherwise noted. **Please park in the back lot** – on the east side of the church – and enter at that door.

• **GUESTS ARE WELCOME:** Guests and friends are free the first time they attend, after which they must join the Guild to continue attending.

• **FREEBIE TABLE:** Members may bring in fiber-related items they no longer need. **PLEASE take home any unclaimed items!**

## NSNG Board • 2026 - 2027

**NOTE: The email addresses in this newsletter are for your personal use only.**

Co-President	Nancy Nicholson	nancy@nicholson.net (847) 533-4818
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2nd Vice-President	Jil Levin Deheeger	jil2462@gmail.com
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Special Events	Barb Maneck	happydragon@yahoo.com
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