

# Loose Ends & Gathered Threads

Newsletter of the North Suburban NeedleArts Guild  
April 2008

*Art is not what you see, but what you make others see. Edgar Degas*

## President's Column

### A Gift

On March 6, I flew to San Francisco to deliver the art lecture for: "eMotion Pictures: An Exhibition of Orthopaedics in Art." The juried exhibit, celebrating the 75th anniversary of the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgery (AAOS), is composed of two hundred works of art created by one hundred and fifty two artists, representing nine countries and thirty three states. The artists share one common denominator: a life impacted by the art and science of orthopaedic surgery. Twelve of the exhibiting artists are children; sixteen artists are orthopaedic surgeons, and the remainder—adult patients.

As a microphone was being attached to my lapel, I watched the audience assemble. Immediately, I realized that this was not to be an ordinary experience. A handsome young man, an artist, walked in on crutches, one pant leg of his suit empty and pinned. We had been instructed to wear "business formal" to the art opening. Another, a painter, his suit tailored to accommodate his missing forearms took a seat near the front.

I talked about my childhood surgery performed by the compassionate and consummate surgeon, Dr. William T. Green of the Boston Children's Hospital. I told of the many months that I spent in bilateral long legged plaster casts dreaming of glamorous footwear possibilities. I shared stories of Dr. Green making rounds at midnight to check on the rebuilt limbs of children stricken by polio. And I confided that it was probably not a coincidence that I had fallen in love with and married an orthopaedic surgeon.

At the reception that evening, a mother took me aside to tell me that her sixteen year old daughter, Lena, had been born with one leg dramatically shorter than the other. When my image of a closet brimming with beautiful shoes filled the screen, mother and daughter turned to each other with tears in their eyes. From the time that Lena was three years old, her mother had promised her that one day she would wear beautiful shoes. Thanks to the miracle of leg lengthening orthopaedic surgery, beautiful Lena—an artist in the exhibit

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## CALENDAR

**Tues. April 8. (one week later than usual)** at Gloria Dei, Pflugsten & Cherry in Northbrook

**9 - 9:30 am** Socializing, sign up for workshops and miniworkshops

**9:30 am Lecture, Pam Sussman**, Lecture: Cross-pollination: bringing paper book structures to fabric journalists and back.

**After the meeting: Members' Sale. Also "tear-in" with Jeanette Page.** See p. 8.

**Wed.-Thurs. April 9-10. Workshop, Pam Sussman.** French Stitch Journal

**Tues. April 15th 10 am. Board Meeting** at Gloria Dei. (and Tax Day. Don't forget.)

**Thurs. April 17th noon.** Deadline for May newsletter

**Thurs. April 22nd, One Step Beyond** at Alice Jenks's home. See p. 8.

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—stood proudly by her work on two strong legs wearing fashionable sandals. The three of us shared a hug, eyes filled with tears.

The touching and personal stories continued all evening. I came away from San Francisco with the remarkable gift of dozens of stories of healing and the transformational power of art.

If you would like to view the work and read the artists' stories, visit the AAOS web site: [http://www.aaos75th.org/gallery/the\\_artwork.htm](http://www.aaos75th.org/gallery/the_artwork.htm)

A portion of the exhibition will travel to the Chicago Cultural Center, 77 East Randolph, Chicago, IL, April 18 to July 20, 2008.

Susan Fraerman

*Loose Ends and Gathered Threads* is the newsletter of the North Suburban NeedleArts Guild which meets in Northbrook, Illinois. It is published 8 times per year, monthly except for June, July, August and December. Copy deadlines for the upcoming issue will be included in the calendar of each newsletter.

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**April 8, 9, 10 2008 (note later date)**

## **Pam Sussman**

Pam has been making fabric and paper books since 1995. Before the book-making bug bit, Pam worked for Proctor and Gamble and as a freelance graphic designer. While still a designer, she became interested in making books as a hobby and took classes with Shereen LaPlantz. She began to produce small-edition artists' books that led to requests to teach. Pam teaches at major conferences throughout the U.S. and has week-long workshops at her home in Munster, Indiana. She is the author of *Fabric Art Journals: Making, Sewing and Embellishing Journals from Cloth and Fibers*, published by Rockport in 2005.

Lecture: Cross Pollination: Bringing Paper Book Structures to Fabric Journals and Back

Workshop: French Stitch Journal

In this class an exquisite fabric book will be sewn and embellished. Each student will make a French Stitch Book model and a one-of-a-kind decorated book. The book is modeled after a paper book binding technique in which the pages are bound together using an exposed linking stitch on the spine. The pages of the book will be the perfect canvas for many creative embellishment techniques.

## **A Tisket A Tasket, Baskets of Fantastic**

Time to think about contributing to the FAOF Raffle 2008. We have a wonderful wrought iron, three tier, basket stand to fill with wonderful fancies. Looking for ideas? Our Raffle Registry, passed around at each meeting, will be sure to generate ideas.

Thank you to all who made last year's "Urnestly Yours" so irresistible and such a great success. This guild is the best!

Pam Relitz

**May 6, 7, 8 2008**

## **Donna Kato**

Donna is a polymer clay artist, product designer, and author, as well as a teacher. Her first book, *The Art of Polymer Clay* which was published in 1997, was considered the bible of polymer clay crafting. For many years she was a representative for Sculpey and Fimo and recently she has partnered with Van Aken to design her own line, Kato Poly Clay. She teaches throughout the world and frequently is featured on TV and in magazine articles. Her new book, *The Art of Polymer Clay Creative Surface Effects: Techniques and Projects Featuring transfers, Stamps, Stencils, Inks, Paints, Mediums and More*, will be on sale in July 2007. Donna's work may be seen at

[http://web.mac.com/donna\\_kato](http://web.mac.com/donna_kato)

Lecture: Polymer Clay Trunk Show

Workshop: Polymer Clay Beads

Donna will teach a variety of techniques for making and embellishing beads from polymer clay. Besides basic bead making, Donna will include instruction in photo transfer, translucent overlays, pigment inking with stamps, and component caning.

## **Board candidates**

The nominating committee has chosen the following candidates whom we will vote on at the May meeting:

President: Mary Jo Eckhart

2nd VPs: Tracey Stewart and Shelley Brucar

Assistant to VPs: Jan Gerber

Membership: Joan Nasiatka

Annual Project: Valerie Rodelli

Publicity: Judy Colpack with Joanne McCollim covering exhibits

Mini Workshops: Alice Jenks

In addition, Gretchen Alexander will complete the current term of Workshop Chair and Pam Novey will assume the Hospitality Chair position.

Thanks to the above slate for your support and contributions to our exceptional guild.

Pam Relitz, Bobbye Weisgerber, Shelley Brucar

## The Book Bag

Rhonda Newman suggests: *Creative Felting* by Lizzie Houghton, a beautiful reference and instruction book for felting objects. The colors are outstanding.

From Mary Jo Eckhart: *Print Your Own Fabric: Create Unique Designs Using an Inkjet Printer* by Linda Turner Griepentrog & Missy Shepler, Krause Publications, 2007 (includes a CD).

## Barbara Schneider

Barbara Schneider's "Leaf Fall" will be the postcard and catalog cover image for the Art Quilt Elements exhibit in Philadelphia, opening April, 2008. Also Barbara will be teaching a 5 day workshop, Explorations with Imagery: Fabric, Papers, Photos at the Madeline Island School of the Arts in the Apostle Islands in Lake Superior., August 4-9, 2008.

See <http://www.madelineartschool.com> for more information.

### Super Bargains

*White craft table on casters.*

*60 in. wide opened; (10 in. with both leaves down); 32 in. deep; 35 in. high.*

*Excellent condition \$ 25*

*Two white mats each 32 in. x 30 1/2 in.. \$ 10 for both.*

*Antique oak Singer sewing machine cabinet.*

*Black iron base; six drawers. Modified to hold "old" or new portable sewing machine. 36 in wide (closed); 48 in. wide (open); 17-1/2 in. deep. Very good condition. \$ 100.*

*Bernina 930*

*All attachments ++*

*Bernina manual, books; carrying case, etc.,*

*Outstanding condition.*

*Please contact:*

*Shirley Merritt*

*847-679-1723*

*Shirmerr@hotmail.com*

*paid advertisement*

## Calls for Entry

**Fiber Cards for Kids. Deadline April 25.** Cards for Kids Exhibition and Sale Benefiting the Children's Miracle Network. May 8-10, 2008 Home Machine Quilting Show 2008, May 8-10, 2008. Meander Publishing and the show's organizers team up for the 'Cards for Kids' exhibit and sale, with 100% of the proceeds benefiting the Children's Miracle Network (CMN) a non-profit organization founded in 1983 by the Osmond family and headquartered in Salt Lake City, Utah. The cards will be available at the show in the Meander Publishing Booth, #404, and will be offered for sale at \$25. We ask that you consider donating a quilted postcard, 4" x 6," with a children's theme. The cards can be stitched, embroidered, painted, beaded, felted and embellished in any way. Use your creativity! Please be sure that any three-dimensional embellishments are securely attached. Please sign your card and include your city and state or country. No other rules except be generous and have fun! Multiple card donations cheerfully accepted! Cards can be sent to Meander Publishing, Cards For Kids, PO Box 918, Fort Lupton, CO 80621, by April 25, 2008. Email: [info@upquiltmag.com](mailto:info@upquiltmag.com). Visit the website: <http://upquiltmag.com/>

**Art Quilts Lowell 2008. Deadline April 30th.** A National Juried Exhibition (a feature of the 2008 Lowell Quilt Festival). Organized by E. Linda Poras. Sponsored by Attached Inc. and Iris Karp. Jurors: Connie Collom, Executive Director, New England Quilt Museum and Clara Wainwright, Quiltmaker and Public Celebration Artist. This is the fourth biennial art quilt exhibition organized by the Brush Art Gallery. The exhibition will provide an overview of art quilts by artists from around the United States. It will include work by artists whose non-traditional quilts reflect the ever-expanding boundaries of the Art Quilt Movement. More info and prospectus: <http://www.thebrush.org/Documents/Art-QuiltsLowell2008.pdf>

**Quilt National '09. Deadline September 7.** On display May 23-September 7, 2009, at the Dairy Barn Cultural Artists Center in Athens, Ohio. Send SASE with 2-ounces postage to QN '09 Entry Form, Dairy Barns Art Center, PO Box 747, Athens, OH 45701. [www.quiltnational.com](http://www.quiltnational.com).

## FAOF 5 x 5 Project

So – have you created your five inch square for the FAOF members' collage project? Well, we didn't think so – but have you given it some thought?

Wouldn't it be great if every member of NSNG had a small piece of her artwork to display at the show in November.

The committee (Sandra Geis, Pam Relitz and Jan Kent) are working on ways to connect the various squares so they can be hung on a quilt stand. Right now the favored plan is to tack the squares to very narrow, neutral-colored ribbon.

Remember – these squares can be made any way you want to make them, out of any materials you want to work with, no threaded needle required. We're starting with one per member, but hope to expand this, and also hope to make it an ongoing event. The guidelines to remember are:

- Squares become guild property and will not have individual names on them
- Squares must be sturdy/rigid enough to hang as described above
- Squares must be viewable on both sides
- Squares cannot be heavy or extremely thick
- It must be possible to get a needle through the corners of the squares

The deadline is September, but we really need to get started before then. Can we count on you to bring a square to the April meeting? We'll be waiting.

Questions? Call Sandra, Pam or Jan.

### *Quilting Fabrics*

*Never-used half-yard pieces 100% commercial cotton, various delicious colors and patterns. \$3 each. Contact Judy Robbins at 847-679-3888 or at judy-lois@megsinet.net. Cash preferred.*

*paid advertisement*

## Correction

In the article last month about the Botanical Challenge at the FAOF, the name of the gallery where it will be displayed was incorrect. It had been picked up from last year's program which contained a typo. The challenge will be displayed in the Joutras gallery.

## March Meeting Notes

The March meeting was a busy one. There was a lot on the agenda, so no time for a fiber arts joke, said our president, Susan.

FAOF co-chairs, Lois Jacobs and Connie Matheu, reported that there will be a new event at the show in November. It's a Botanic Challenge—to be hung in the long hall outside the main exhibit hall. Those attending the show will have an opportunity to vote for their favorite. Pam Relitz showed a mock-up of our raffle item for the show—a three tiered basket set which our members will fill with wonderful handmade items. Sandra Geis showed a sample of the “no member left behind” 5 x 5 inch square project. which will be a part of the FAOF in the fall. We're hoping to have a square from every guild member.

Joanne McCollim has just taken an exhibit out of the Glenview library, and will have one set up to promote the guild in the Mount Prospect library in August. If you have items for a display, let her know.

April and May workshops are filled, but sign up on the waiting list if you're interested. The committee is working on speakers for the Summer Seminar, June 20 – 24, 2009. Jeanette Page, Service chair, will have fabric after the April meeting for a “tear in.” She needs a hand getting fabric to size in order to sew cot sheets for the day care center we assist. April is also the time for the Members' Sale, so bring your wallet to the meeting. Myra Auslin reports that Quilts for Soldiers is going strong. Call or email her with questions. Our Annual Project will be held in May, and the theme is *ties*.

Barbara Schneider presented the array of speakers for the 2008/09 guild year. Looks great!

Maggie Weiss introduced Wendy Butler Berns who presented the program, featuring her work and the work of other quilt artists. The influence of her entomologist father was clearly seen, as many of her quilts had bugs of some sort in some spot. She urged us all to embrace our past and to tell our story in our work.

And then there was Show and Tell, and lunch with the speaker.

## Speakers & Workshops 2008-9

### Sept. 2 – Sept. 4, 2008 Larkin Jean Van Horn

Larkin was surprised to find herself teaching in 1992, but found she loved the challenge and excitement of the classroom. As recognition for her art quilts and wearable art has grown, she has been a stimulating and unselfish guide to hundreds of fabric and fiber fanatics in the Pacific Northwest. Larkin makes garments, art quilts, bead embroidery and art for the church that emanate from her bold imagination, her love for the vast array of textile products from around the world, and her strong sense of drama.

Her art is truly that of the Pacific Northwest, and has been displayed, and won honors, both regionally and nationally. In 2000, Larkin was invited to participate in the final Fairfield Fashion Show, as well as the first two shows after sponsorship was taken up by Bernina, and was given the Judges' Award of Merit in 2002. She has mounted gallery shows, both individually and in small groups, in Washington and Oregon, and had pieces in the Hoffman Challenge traveling exhibit five years running. Larkin's website is: <http://www.larkinart.com>

**Workshop:** Collaged and Embellished Fabric Vessels

Create new shapes for fabric vessels, four of them in two sizes. The bottoms are weighted for stability. Let your imagination run wild, you'll have a ball. The pattern includes the outlines for making these either nine or twelve inches tall.

### October 14-16, 2008 Fred Bloebaum (LaFred)

Fred Bloebaum (a woman with a man's nickname) is a highly regarded sewing instructor from the San Francisco area. She is a regular teacher at The Sewing Workshop and other local sewing schools. She has served on the faculties of several colleges, teaching fashion and sewing related courses. Fred specializes in fashion-conscious sewing classes focusing on designer techniques, figure flattery, and sewing with a wide variety of unique fabrics.

She teaches workshops at conferences, sewing guilds and fabric stores around the country and is a frequent contributor to *Threads* magazine. In 2002 Fred was honored with an invitation to participate in the annual *Threads* design challenge, one of only 3 people are invited each year to do so. She has also appeared on the television show "Sew Much More" which is hosted by HGTV's Do It Yourself network. She is a member of the professional Association of Custom Clothiers, a national professional organization, the Independent Pattern Company Alliance and several other textile arts and fashion organizations.

Her most recent adventure is the release of her own line of patterns—Clothing Designs by LaFred. Her website is: [www.lafred.com](http://www.lafred.com)

**Workshop:** Collage Sweater. Mine your closets and drawers for inspiration, and give your old or worn out sweaters new life. In this workshop, Fred will demonstrate how to cut up the sweaters or other knit garments and combine them with knit fabrics, decorative stitching and other trims to create one of a kind collage sweaters and coats. Students use

sergers or sewing machines. Fred will demonstrate how to stabilize as well as achieve pleasing design elements with the garment. Students will come away with a unique collaged garment plus the inspiration and scraps to create more.

### November 4, 2008 Karen Musgrave

Karen Musgrave is a quiltmaker, teacher, curator and folklorist. She helped develop Quilters S. O. S.—Save Our Stories, is the project chairperson of the project and wrote the project's online manual. She has personally conducted more than 100 interviews.

**Lecture:** In Their Own Words: Quilters S.O.S. In the fall of 1999, The Alliance for American Quilts and International Quilt Festival introduced a new oral history project to record the stories of this nation's quilters. Called "The Quilters' S.O.S.—Save Our Stories," the project was inaugurated at Festival in October 1999. We can learn many things about a quilt by viewing it. Simply looking at it, though, does not afford us the whole story. Listening to the maker does. Capturing the quiltmaker's own words saves that story for the future.

### January 6-8, 2009 Judy Langille

Judy Langille graduated from SUNY at New Paltz, NY with a B.S. in Art Education and continued on to get her Master's degree at Queens College while teaching art to elementary school children. When she was staying at home with her young family, she began to learn quilt making and later taught it to adults. Her interest in art quilts grew as she returned to teaching young children again. While teaching, she organized many children and teachers in the production of community quilts. She also received several grants, including one from the Geraldine Dodge Foundation for her work in integrating the arts into the school curriculum. Today she lives in Glen Ridge, New Jersey where she works extensively with fabric dyeing and printing. Her fiber art has been juried into several national shows including Quilt National 2005, 2007 and Fine Focus 2002 and 2004. Judy's website is: <http://www.artclothnetwork.com/jlangille.html>

**Workshop:** Torn Paper and Textures

Explore the use of a blank silkscreen and a variety of simple resist techniques to create original images. A variety of papers, both torn and carefully cut will be the method used in these compositions. Complex designs will be achieved through the multi layering of areas of thickened dyes and the removal of color with discharge paste. The results will be spontaneous and exciting. Bring your own thermofax silkscreens, or use those of the instructor to add detail and texture to your designs.

### February 3-5, 2009 Judy Coates Perez

Judy Coates Perez is an international award winning textile artist who is well known for her highly detailed, colorfully painted whole cloth quilts. She explores themes drawn from folklore, mythology and nature, working in a variety of media. Often blending quilting skills with techniques drawn from her graphic arts background, she uses textile paints, dyes, inks, acrylic powders, and artist's pencils on her fabric

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as well as sewing metal into her mixed media pieces. Judy has written numerous articles for *Quilting Arts* and *Cloth Paper Scissors* magazines and has been a guest twice on the new Quilting Arts PBS television program. You can see more of her work and read about her creative process at [www.judyperez.blogspot.com](http://www.judyperez.blogspot.com)

Workshop description:

Part 1: Painting fabric for whole cloth quilts

From adding details, dimension or shadow to creating fully illustrated scenes, paint offers endless opportunities for creating special effects on fabric. Working with various types of textile paints you will learn different techniques for applying paint to fabric; creating smooth gradations of color and adding fine details to your work, including lots of tips for painting success.

Part 2: Tsukineko inks

Tsukineko inks have a broad range of applications for painting fabric. Learn effective shading and blending techniques working with wet and dry brush applicator methods to create original fabric to use in your quilts.

### March 3-5, 2009 Jan Wutkowski

Jan Wutkowski is a practicing milliner in Wilmington, NC, and is the owner of That Hat!, a bespoke millinery company. Her custom, one-of-a-kind creations include traditional to abstract, bridal to costume; several have been seen on the silver screen and in museum displays throughout the country. Jan studied millinery at the Melbourne (Australia) School of Millinery, and has taught old-world hatmaking throughout the United States and England since 1998. Jan's website is: [www.hatshatshats.com](http://www.hatshatshats.com)

Workshop: Wicked Wire Hats and Headpieces

Wire construction is one of millinery's oldest skills, one most recognized in Victorian and Edwardian hat styles. However, wire can be used to make not only these traditional hat shapes, but hats that are more sculptural, abstract or contemporary in profile.

We will be making two hats in this workshop—a small, simple headpiece to learn how to cut, shape, join, and cover the wire—the basics—followed by a more intricately designed hat or headpiece to unleash the creative potential of this skill. Attendees will learn several methods of covering the wire with the fabric of their choice—one of several methods used in designing unique wire construction headwear.

### April 14-16, 2009 Jean Cacicedo

Jean Williams Cacicedo received a BFA from the Pratt Institute, New York, in 1970. A recipient of a NEA Fellowship Grant in 1976, she was awarded Artist of the Year from the Contemporary Crafts Committee of the Oakland Museum in 1985. Her work has been featured in many publications, with a cover story in both *American Craft* and *Ornament* Magazines.

Based in Berkeley, Jean teaches classes in her studio, and has been a visiting artist at California College of Arts and Crafts, Penland School of Arts and Crafts in North Carolina,

and Split Rock Arts Program at the University of Minnesota. Known for her "signature" wool coats, Jean has worked both on the body and off the body, incorporating a special process she developed for wool fabrics. Her pieced and sewn constructions have been exhibited extensively throughout the world. Jean's website is: [www.Fiberscene.com](http://www.Fiberscene.com)

Workshop: Felted Wool: Art To Wear Garment

Explore the unique process of designing a garment using felted wool fabrics.

Wool cloth can be transformed by hot water and agitation into a soft, durable and dense fabrication. This fabric adapts well to simple sewing techniques and allows for creative piecing during construction. Jean's signature reverse appliqué techniques will be our focus.

Starting from a sewn muslin pattern of your choice, your "road map to wearability," we will learn basic design concepts and apply these ideas to our finished design. Jean will demonstrate ways of creating unique pockets, as well as binding and finishing techniques for you to choose from. We will approach the garment the way a painter approaches the canvas—a surface waiting to accept images of color and texture. Our goal will be to create a personally expressive one-of-a-kind garment.

### May 5-7, 2009 Erica Spitzer Rasmussen

Erica Spitzer Rasmussen is an artist who creates mixed media and handmade paper garments. She received her BFA (1990) and MFA (1997) at the University of Minnesota (Minneapolis), which included coursework in Mexico and Greece. From 1997 to 1998, Rasmussen acted as the paper artist-in-residence at the Minnesota Center for Book Arts. She was awarded an Artist's Assistance Fellowship from the Minnesota State Arts Board in 1999 to pursue sculptural work constructed of non-traditional/non-archival media. Her current work explores issues of identity and corporeality, often utilizing clothing as a metaphor for one's skin. Her work has been featured on the pages of *Fiberarts*, *Surface Design Journal*, *Hand Papermaking*, *Craft Arts International* and *Spin-Off Magazine*. Rasmussen teaches studio arts as an associate professor at Metropolitan State University (St. Paul, MN). Her sculptural and wearable works are exhibited internationally.

Workshop: From Bubble Wrap to Bottle Caps: Embellishing Handmade Paper with Everyday Media

This workshop features low-tech methods for surfacing paper with inexpensive and commonplace materials. In seeking economic and accessible media, kitchens, backyards, pharmacies, beauty shops, hardware stores, liquor stores and groceries become fertile grounds for inspiration. Among other things, dental floss, Band-Aids, red wine, beet juice, rusty washers, tomato paste, fire and instant cocoa can provide surprisingly beautiful results. Sample sheets and objects made of non-traditionally surfaced handmade paper will be circulated. A pamphlet stitched soft covered book will be assembled to house the samples executed in class.

## Service Update

Wow—the donations and ideas are really flowing. Over 100 cot covers are torn, thanks to Kim Darling, serged and ready awaiting elastic . They will be at the members meeting in April and can taken home to be brought back at the May Meeting and delivered promptly as they are in great need of them. Members have also been asking for fleece and stuffing for the “Jan Kent” original and heavier fabric for the women’s tote bags. Patterns and materials will be at the Service Table. Additional 8” and 4 1/2” templates will be available in April and if you would like we could have a “cut in” after the members sale. If you would like to join us please bring a rotary cutter and mat. This year’s participation in Service certainly has made an impact on the lives of many people. At the April meeting expect to see some awesome quilts made from your donated fabric for Project Linus.

North Suburban NeedleArts Guild  
Mary McManus, ed.  
7430 Harrison St.  
Forest Park, IL 60130-2019

## One Step Beyond...

...will be April 22nd at the home of Alice Jenks, 1120 N Greenfield Lane, Mt Prospect, IL 60056. If you plan to attend, please call Alice at 847-255-6796 and let her know.

## Members’ Sale

Bring money!

The members’ sale will follow the April meeting. Both sellers and buyers should plan to bring small bills to facilitate things. The tables will be covered during the meeting. If you have reserved a table, please bring something to cover it with during the meeting so that we can give our undivided attention to the speaker. Thanks.

**First Class Mail**