

# Loose Ends & Gathered Threads

Newsletter of the North Suburban NeedleArts Guild  
February 2012

*Only when you free yourself to be a mere beginner again, which implies experimentation, do you progress to the next level of excellence. (Stella Reinwald)*

## President's Message

Greetings,

Shelley's workshop was as wonderful as I thought it would be. I had forgotten how much fun it is to paint fabric. The first time I did it was in the early 1980's when Yvonne Porcella came here. Besides painting fabric she showed us a new magic tool that looked like a pizza cutter. It was used for cutting fabric, an Olfa cutter, God's gift to Textile Artists! The problem with it was that there were not any good boards to cut upon. I remember going to the Blueprint company and getting a self-healing cutting surface that engineers used. Fortunately, a gridded board was soon invented as were various rulers to cut against. Tools and other aids to our creativity have certainly developed since then. I just saw a pair of tweezers with an attached light and magnifier. It has a mate in a lighted magnifier seam ripper. How cool!

However, the first step to any masterpiece is still getting started. I was thrilled when I had an "Aha!" moment for our next Women's Journeys in Fiber project of Footwear. Last night a piece of fabric fell off a ledge telling me that it wants to be the base for my shoes. Surprise, surprise, it's purple! Now I can hardly wait to get going on them.

Speaking of the Women's Journeys in Fiber, our Aprons exhibit will open at the Anderson Art Center in Kenosha, WI on Sunday, Jan. 29 from 1-4 p.m.. The exhibit will be there, along with some spectacular quilts, until March 4. (The quilts will remain until March 28, but our Aprons will be whisked off to the Chicago Flower and Garden Show at Navy Pier for the March 8-11 show.) If you didn't see the Aprons at the Fine Art of Fiber, here are two more chances to see them.

If any of you received an e-mail about real estate that was supposedly from me, please ignore it. Someone hacked into my address list. I have run my virus

*continued on page 2*

## CALENDAR

**Tues. Feb. 7 9 - 9:30 am** Socializing, sign up for workshops, at Gloria Dei, Cherry and Pflingsten in Northbrook

**9:30 am Lecture Akemi Nakano Cohn**, Katazome in Kimonos and "My Work"

**Afternoon: Mini Workshop** Triana Lux Scarf with Barbie Eich. See p. 6

**Wed.-Thurs. Feb. 8-9 9:30 am Workshop at Gloria Dei**, Katazome with Akemi Nakano Cohn

**Tuesday Feb. 14, 9:30 am, Work on service project** at Barbie Eich's. See Service p. 7

**Saturday Feb. 18 9 am-4 pm Quilts without Borders**, see p. 5

**Tues. Feb. 21 10 am Board Meeting** at Gloria Dei

**Thurs. Feb. 23rd Noon. Deadline for February newsletter**

**Tues. Feb. 28 9:30 One Step Beyond** at Marcia Hartnell's, see p. 4

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scan and there is no virus, but tomorrow I will change my password as my son directed. He said to do it from a computer other than my own. Ah, technology! It can be great, but it can also be a pain. I have never before had a problem, but there's a first time for everything.

Keep warm in this typically Illinois weather. What a good time to work on your NSNG Annual Project, Time!

Alice

*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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## **February 7-9, 2012**

### **Akemi Nakano Cohn**

Akemi studied traditional Japanese dyeing and printing techniques for 10 years under the master Haru Izumi in Yokohama, Japan. She has a BFA from Tama Art University in Tokyo and an MFA in fiber arts from Cranbrook Academy of Art in Bloomfield Michigan. She has taught at the School of the Art Institute of Chicago, the International Surface Design Conference, Haystack and others. Her work has been exhibited widely both Nationally and Internationally in group and solo exhibits. She has executed many commissions including 'The Light Curtain of Forest' at the Unitarian Church of Evanston. This will be in her presentation.

#### **Lecture Katazome in Kimonos and "My Work"**

#### **Workshop: Katazome (stencil paper & rice paste resist)**

The workshop is to introduce rice paste resist of Katazome basics. The technique is typically applied on lovely kimonos and has been used for over 400 yrs.

The focus is to study traditional Japanese design through books and slides, then we will develop our own designs. We will cut our own stencils, make the rice paste and apply it through the special stencils onto fabric. We will also be doing some painting on fabric as well.

## **Come Join Us**

Just a reminder to come and join our members only Yahoo group. This is where you can announce your awards; tell us about sales in/on your store/website; post wanted ads for items needed or for sale; list calls for entry, etc. But do remember that this is not a chat list. Here is the URL to join <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/nsng2010>. I will also be sending out invitations to those who have not joined in the past and to new members.

Joan Nasiatka/co-moderator

## **March 6-8, 2012**

### **Michele Sales**

This month we have another teacher from our guild—Michelle Sales.

After seeing her lecture last November, there were so many of us interested in learning more about the process. Michelle has been expressing herself forcefully with pigment and mixed media since childhood. Her early work was as a painter, but sculpture soon became her focus. Currently she works in 2 and 3 dimensional media. In 1998 Michelle received a Recognition Scholarship from the School of the Art Institute of Chicago and in 2001 was awarded a Bachelor of Fine Arts Degree. The adult experience helped crystallize thinking about her life's work.

Photo journals created during travels to Central & South America inform her work today. Stratified memories, expressed through color and texture are recurring themes. She maintains a studio in Winfield IL and presents workshops and lectures on surface design and fiber sculpture. Her work has won awards and recognition in both national and international exhibitions and recently was featured at SOFA Chicago 2008 at Navy Pier. Her work is widely collected and she is represented by Vale Craft Gallery in Chicago.

#### **Lecture: Kakishibu-The Art of Japanese Persimmon Juice Dye**

#### **Workshop: Kakishibu (persimmon juice dyeing techniques)**

The workshop will explore the ancient art of persimmon juice dyeing known as kakishibu in Japan. Kakishibu is a non toxic dye made from the juice of unripe persimmon fruit. It has been used in Japan for about 3000 years and has most recently enjoyed a revival partly due to its non toxic nature. Each participant will be creating an 'Ikkanbari' covered basket using Japanese Kozo paper. The baskets will then be dyed using kakishibu. We will explore & create stencils using various non toxic modifiers to create unusual colors with kakishibu. These colors can be used to paint fabric, wood & paper that can be incorporated into baskets or other objects.

This is a great follow up to the katazome workshop the previous month as I'm sure we could use the stencil cutting knowledge along with the rice paste resist in creating designs with the kakishibu.

## Bobby Goodwin

Former longtime member, Barbara "Bobby" Goodwin, passed away on January 7th after a long illness. Bobby had many friends in NSNG and IQI and will be missed. An obituary with a lovely picture of Bobby is on the website of the funeral home which made the arrangements, and anyone wishing to sign the guest book there can go to:

<http://www.suerth.com/obituary/goodwin.html>

## Future Workshops

**April 4-5 Susan Sorrell**

### **Organic Inspiration (Embroidery)**

We will learn to 'think in threads.' We will search for new ways of working in embroidery and mixed media. Organic designs will be the focus of the workshop with a twist. No prior experience in embroidery is needed as Susan will focus on very basic stitching. \$100

**May 2-3 Valerie Goodwin**

### **Favorite Places**

In her workshop you will name a favorite place of yours. It could be your city, your state, a favorite vacation spot, an ancestral birthplace. Wherever you feel is your 'favorite place.' You will then create a small map using fabric, paint and thread. Using a fun and simple series of painted and collaged, mixed media techniques you will create the feeling or ingredients of a place.

## Inventory Sale

Having an inventory sale - hundreds of spools of threads, yards of hand dyed and over dyed fabric—some with wonder under and others without wonder under—cottons and silk, complete collections of magazines such as *Machine Quilting* and *Quilting Arts* as well as ten years of Cook's Illustrated. BOOKS! BOOK! BOOKS! Dyeing and painting materials! Singer Featherweight machine! Big Board, Quilt Racks! Even some quilts will be available!!!! **February 24-26, hours 12 to 5ish.** Blizzard date would be the following weekend. The address is **1132 W Morse Av, Chicago, 60626, phone 773-274-1981.** Parking should not be a problem, but call me from your car and my husband will "valet" the car for you. There will good yummys to eat and drink.

I am not quitting —just re-organizing.  
Questions? Call me at 773-274-1981. Mary Jo Bowers (mjb@maryjobowers.com)

*paid advertisement*

## One Step Beyond...

.....will be February 28, 2012, at the home of Marcia Hartnell, 1721 Ellendale Drive, Northbrook. The meeting time is 9:30 AM. If you plan to attend, please call Marcia at 847-714-6594 or email her at [scootsrambo@aol.com](mailto:scootsrambo@aol.com) to let her know you will attend.

One Step Beyond is an informal gathering for the purpose of meeting like-minded individuals to socialize and to work on a project if desired. This is an open come-when-you-can function.

## Quilts beyond Borders

**at St James the Less, Northfield  
on Saturday February 18th from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m.**

Why: I discovered Quilts beyond Borders in spring 2008 at Quilt Festival, when I met June Colburn at a stand there. June had taught at NSNG the previous year. She had travelled to Ethiopia and found a huge need for the over 1 million children in orphanages there. She showed me some "before and after" photos of the orphanage they had just been to, and those photos spoke so much to my heart that I knew I had to make some quilts for the children. Many of these children have nothing of their own, other than their school uniforms, so these quilts are precious to them. <http://quiltsbeyondborders.wordpress.com/about/>

Some of the ladies at my Church, St James the Less, were keen to be involved too, and in the last 3 years we have made over 100 quilts. We are a small group who meets 3 or 4 times a year on Saturdays to sew together and some of us also work on the quilts at home. We are a mix of church members and friends. Most of us were not quilters but most knew how to use a sewing machine! Thankfully simple quilting was all that was required of us (more elaborate quilts are auctioned off to raise funds to get the quilts to Africa). Here is our last batch of quilts <http://www.stjamestheless.org/latest-quilt-photos.html>

Where: St James the Less, 550 Sunset Ridge Road, Northfield, IL 60093. You can find a map here <http://www.stjamestheless.org/about-us.html> There is ample parking, and a ramp for access to the hall. Entry is at the back of the property (on the east side).

When: Saturday 18th February, 2012 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. (or whatever part of that time you can manage)

What to bring: Sewing machine, pins, thread, extension cord and power strip, scissors, rotary cutter and board, marking pen / pencil, fabric, including backing fabric and batting or fleece for backing. We usually bring 2 or 3 irons and ironing boards but if a lot of people are coming we may need some of you to bring those too.

I have some donated fabrics and a few ready-cut kits which you are welcome to use. I will bring them with me, but please bring batting and backing fabrics as these are in shortage. (If you want a kit, I can send you a photo in advance so that you can find backing fabric). You may prefer to choose to work with your own fabrics for the entire quilt. The orphanages are at high altitude so it is cold at night and batting is needed.

Guidelines for the quilts:

Fabrics: cotton or cotton blend, especially in bright colors

Batting: they will accept quilts backed with fleece instead of using batting, if you prefer

Sizes: 42" x 48" to 42" x 54" to 42"x 60" (or similar).

Quilts should be simply quilted, but not tied

Lunch: Either bring your own lunch (fridges and microwave available) or we place an order with Panera and someone goes to fetch it. If you want lunch from Panera, you will need to bring *cash* to pay as we can't sort out credit card payments. Some snacks, soft drinks and coffee or tea will be available throughout the day.

Please let me know if you plan to come so that I can arrange for sufficient tables.  
Sue Babbs [suebabbs@comcast.net](mailto:suebabbs@comcast.net) (847 446 5251)

## February Mini Workshop

February 7, 2012

### Triana Lux Scarf with Barbie Eich

The February Mini Workshop will be led by Barbie Eich as she shows us how to knit a most unique scarf called the Triana Lux Scarf.

This scarf uses a yarn that has strands with loops to create a very loopy looking scarf. The cost of the workshop is \$20.00, which will include the yarn and directions. The participants will need to supply their own knitting needles size 11 to size 18. Please call or email Barbie if you have questions. Payment is required at time of sign up. At this time this mini class is filled, but if interested you could be put on a waiting list if someone cancels.

To sign up for this workshop, please email or call Barbie Eich at [barbill0665@comcast.net](mailto:barbill0665@comcast.net) or 847- 564-4232 to check on availability.

Linda Iser- [lindaiser@gmail.com](mailto:lindaiser@gmail.com) or 847-478-5014  
Barbie Eich- [barbill0665@comcast.net](mailto:barbill0665@comcast.net) or 847- 564-4232

Mini-Workshop Chairs

## Members' Sale Tuesday, March 6

March 6th will be our annual Members' Sale. If you are interested in having a table to sell your art, treasures, excess supplies, books, magazines etc., reserve a space with

Linda Iser- [lindaiser@gmail.com](mailto:lindaiser@gmail.com) or 847-478-5014  
or

Barbie Eich-[barbill0665@comcast.net](mailto:barbill0665@comcast.net) or 847- 564-4232

by Saturday, February 18th.

Please let us know if you need a whole table or 1/2 table. The tables are 8 feet long with a few round tables as well. There is no charge for the tables to members, but a reservation is required. The chairs of the program reserve the right to assign the tables and table partners, if needing a half table. Set up will start at 8:35 AM. There will be time to sell from 9:00 to 9:40 and then again after the meeting. You will need to bring a large tablecloth (or other cloth) to cover your display during the meeting. More information will be given to those participating in the sale after our reservation date of February 18th.

Please, no free giveaways at this sale. Keep them for another meeting.

Linda Iser- [lindaiser@gmail.com](mailto:lindaiser@gmail.com) or 847-478-5014  
Barbie Eich- [barbill0665@comcast.net](mailto:barbill0665@comcast.net) or 847-564-4232

Member Sale Chairs

### FOR SALE

#### SEWING MACHINE-BERNINA 930

Has extended worktop, collection of feet, bobbins, case & threads

\$600

#### KNITTING MACHINE KNIT-KING

\$100

#### SERGER ELNITA L-3

\$100

#### SINGER FEATHERWEIGHT

with case

\$250

Richard Zuckerman, 847 869-6910, [richzucker@aol.com](mailto:richzucker@aol.com)

*paid advertisement*

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## Ply-Split Braiding

Dorothy Kroll has provided us with some information on a fascinating technique which came up during our January show and tell. Here is a picture of Dorothy's bracelet and almost-completed earring.



Her instructor was Michele Oreilly whose work you can see at:

<http://www.micheleoreilly.com/>

Michele teaches ply-split braiding at the Fine Line Creative Arts Center in St. Charles where her classes may be found under Braiding:

<http://fineline.org/classes/txbraiding.html#>

The class that Dorothy took from Michele used Linda Hendrickson's book, *Great SCOT! A Beginner's Guide to Ply-Split Braids in Single Course Oblique Twining*.

That and many other wonderful examples of this technique may be found on Linda's website:

<http://www.lindahendrickson.com/>

Another source for ply-split braiding and its tools is:

<http://www.louisefrench.com/>

We hope that the information above will inspire you to explore this interesting fiber technique.

## Service Update

58 preemie quilts and isolette covers were delivered to Rush Hospital and were received with great appreciation. Thank you to the many Guild members who participated in this worthy, continuing project.

Kits will be available at the Service table to take home. You can sew totes for battered women, literacy bags, pillowcases, preemie quilts and isolette covers. We will have a Service Day at Barbie Eich's home on Tuesday, February 14 from 9:30-1:00. We accomplish so much and would like for you to come join us! If you don't sew, we need people to cut material too.

As always, we are in need of flannel, cotton, denim and batting. The Freebie table is recycling at its best. Bring any books, patterns, magazines, notions, fabric, etc. that you want to get rid of and there will be someone to take it off your hands.

Ruth Zuckerman, a long-time member of NSNG passed away last year and her husband, Richard, generously donated many boxes of fabric and batting. So far, we have made 60 kits for tote bags and 35 literacy bag kits. Batting is in the process of being cut to size and several pillowcase kits are complete. There is more too! We would like to express our gratitude and sincere thanks to Richard.

Jeanette Page and Nancy Calandra

## Workshops

We still have 4 more opportunities to partake of NSNG workshops. You can support your guild, get to know more guild members and have fun learning something new! You can check the teachers' websites if you would like more information about them. We still have openings in all workshops. You can contact me by e-mail or phone, send a me a check made out to NSNG, or sign up at the guild meeting. Supply lists are on our website to help you decide.

Barbara Fry, Workshop Chairman

## Annual Project

Our **Annual Project** will be "due on April 3rd". The theme this year is **Time**. Close your eyes and think about the movement of time in your life. Summertime, playtime, garden time, work time, party time, mealtime, time out, time's up, anytime, timing is everything...

How does time affect you? Is time your friend or your enemy? When was the best time of your life? Now? Remember this must be a work that you have completed within the past year; and you must use a needle and thread somewhere in your design. Call me if you have any questions.

Pam Novey

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**First Class Mail**