

# Loose Ends & Gathered Threads

Newsletter of the North Suburban NeedleArts Guild  
January 2008

*In the midst of movement and chaos, keep stillness inside of you. Deepak Chopra*

## President's Message

### Dream Along With Me

During the blustery days of winter, my sister waits impatiently for the arrival of the Burpee Seed catalog. With the exception of one or two varieties of morning glories, she orders very little. I suspect that it's the dream—the possibility of having the time to create an exquisite garden.

And I await the arrival of the summer catalogs from the craft schools. I have had the pleasure of attending Haystack twice—visits spaced ten years apart. But like Karen and the seed catalogs, I can dream, dream of a bucolic setting and total immersion in the work I love.

The North Suburban Needle Arts Guild Biennial Summer Seminars bring some of the very best teachers right to our own backyard, but Summer 2008 will be our off year.

Following are four of the available summer programs offering instruction in the fiber arts with descriptions taken directly from their websites. Please keep in mind that many of the schools offer scholarships and work/study may be a possibility.

Haystack Mountain School of Crafts is an international craft school located on the Atlantic Ocean in Deer Isle, Maine... The unique experience to be found at Haystack is owed to the combination of internationally-renowned instructors, intensive and focused studio time, the exploration of other art forms including music, poetry and dance, a diverse student body, and an award-winning campus..Programs range from short workshops to three-week sessions and anyone may participate, from beginners to advanced professionals... Students live, eat and work at the school, and studios remain open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. <http://www.haystack-mtn.org/>

Penland School of Crafts is a national center for craft education located in the Blue Ridge Mountains of Western North Carolina. Penland offers one, two, and eight-week workshops in books & paper, clay, drawing, glass, iron, metals, photography, printmaking, textiles, and wood....You can expect to work hard, learn a lot,

*continued on page 4*

## CALENDAR

**Tues. Jan. 8** at Gloria Dei, Pfingsten & Cherry in Northbrook

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

**9:30 am Lecture, Elizabeth Mini**, Fashion Show, Handmade Quilted Clothing

**Afternoon. Mini Workshop, Patty Benbow's Fabric Bead Necklace.** See p. 5 for information

**Wed.-Thurs. Jan. 9-10. Workshop, Elizabeth Mini**, Crazy Patch Stack n' Whack

**Tues. Jan. 15th 10 am. Board Meeting** at Gloria Dei.

**Thurs. Jan. 17th noon.** Deadline for February newsletter

**Thurs. Jan. 22nd. One Step Beyond** at Kay Kleczewski's (see p. 2)

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**One Step Beyond...**

,,,will be January 22nd at the home of Kay Kleczewski, 1457 6th Ave. Des Plaines, IL 60018. If you plan to attend, please call Kay at 847-824-0339 and let her know.

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.

**Advertising rates:**

1/8 page \$4 per issue or \$25 for 8 issues  
 1/4 page \$8 per issue or \$50 for 8 issues  
 1/2 page \$16 per issue or \$100 for 8 issues

Mary McManus, ed.

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**January 8, 9, 10 2008**

## **Elizabeth Mini**

Elizabeth is a prolific fiber artist who has been influenced by her background in Honduras, where she grew up. She finds inspiration in the rich customs and traditions of the Garifuna (strong) people of Honduras. She teaches and shows her quilts and wearable art in quilt shows throughout the United States.

Lecture: Fashion Show: Hand Made Quilted Clothing

Workshop: Crazy Patch Stack n' Whack

Elizabeth will teach an efficient and fast way to create a stack n' whack crazy quilt. The piece can be made into a vest or a small wall hanging. Class participants can finish their Crazy Quilt by using decorative hand quilting or the wide variety of decorative machine quilting stitches.

## **Holiday Party**

Oh, the weather outside was frightful, as they say, but that didn't prevent our hardy guild members from turning up in great numbers on December 4 for the annual Holiday Party. The room was filled with talking and laughter. Tables were filled with delicious potluck food. (We're getting closer and closer to an all-dessert array.)

When lunch was over we turned to the other tables piled high with wrapped gifts. The usual grab bag free-for-all was presided over, as usual, by Kay Kleczewski. Then came the White Elephant grab bag event. Some pretty scary stuff was unwrapped, some of which will surely come to the party again next year.

## **Shelly Brucar Exhibition**

Shelly Brucar has a solo show from December 28th until January 30th in the Village of Schaumburg at the Prairie Center for the Arts, 201 Schaumburg Court, Schaumburg, IL. Regular hours 8 am - 6 pm. Artist's reception on January 6th from 2 to 4 pm.

**February 5, 6, 7 2008**

## **Sylvia Alotta**

With a background in art and automotive design Sylvia's interest in bookbinding began while designing a journal that resulted in two U.S. Patents. Sylvia received an MFA in Book and Paper Arts from Columbia College Chicago and in 2005 established The Sharpest Pencil specialty bindery and letterpress studio in Berwyn IL. She teaches at Columbia College, exhibits internationally, has appeared on HGTV and is the spokeswoman for Dremel Tools. Find out more about Sylvia at <http://www.spbindery.com>

Lecture: Explorations in Book Binding

Workshop: Exposed Spine Book with Case

Sylvia will lead students in the creation of a unique exposed spine book. She will teach a special process for the students to make their own cloth to cover the soft cover book and case. The small works of art can be embellished using buttons, beads and stitching.

## **Workshop News**

More happy fun lies ahead in 2008. There are still places for Elizabeth Mini's Crazy Patch Stack 'n Whack Workshop on January 9 and 10. The February Book Binding workshop with Sylvia Allota is full, but you can always put your name on the waiting list. Spaces are available in March for Wendy Butler Berns, Embellishing in the Third Dimension. One space remains for Pam Sussman's French Stitch Journal in April. The May workshop with Donna Kato—Embellished

Polymer Bead is full. Get your name on the waiting list for your favorites, but wish only good thoughts for those who have to give up their spaces. Maybe the dropout won a free trip to Hawaii, or her lottery ticket pays for a workshop in Provence.

May your new year be filled with joy and creativity.  
Peace,

Patty Benbow,  
847-677-4609  
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make friends, and forget about the rest of the world in an isolated setting without the distraction of phones, television, or daily newspapers. You can expect to have fun, eat a lot, and get the kind of rest that comes from total immersion in something you love. <http://www.penland.org/>

Snow Farm, The New England Craft Program, is located in Williamsburg, Western Massachusetts, near the five-college communities of Amherst and Northampton in a beautiful pastoral setting surrounded by fields and woodland. Snow Farm is a special place where students can come for solace and rejuvenation while learning a craft from master craftspeople. <http://www.snowfarm.org/>

The Sievers School of Fiber Arts, Door County, Wisconsin is located just off the northernmost tip of Wisconsin's "thumb," this six-mile-square island is a jewel in the sparkling waters of Lake Michigan—remote, tranquil and beyond the tension line...The Island provides an excellent setting for studying the fiber arts. Last summer's offerings included: hand made paper, knitting, spinning, dyeing, felting, beading and more. <http://www.sieversschool.com/>

Split Rock Summer Arts Program, University of Minnesota ... consists of 40 workshops and includes an ever changing variety of creative writing workshops in fiction, poetry, creative nonfiction, and mixed genre formats; studio workshops in drawing, painting, collage, mixed media, book arts, artists' books, and photography; and design workshops in fibers, fabric design and construction, textiles, and surface design. Split Rock participants revel in having the time and space to explore their art in one of two unique art making environments, both of which foster hands-on learning and supportive artists' communities.. <http://www.cce.umn.edu/splitrockarts/>

Dream along with me. If your dream becomes a reality and you attend a summer session, please keep a journal and share your experience with us.

Susan

## Calls for Entry

It's a New Year and opportunities to exhibit abound.

Check out the website of Handweavers of America at <http://www.weavespindye.org>. HGA is offering eight different entry opportunities in conjunction with their 2008 Convergence Conference. Their Small Expressions exhibit is always varied and interesting – this year juried by John Marshall. Mr. Marshall specializes in traditional Japanese fiber arts, primarily in Japanese natural dyes on natural fiber.

Shibori Cut Loose. Deadline for submission: February 29, 2008. This is an international exhibition featuring the shibori technique in its many traditional and contemporary interpretations. Juried by Yoshiko Wada. Email: [info@textilecentermn.org](mailto:info@textilecentermn.org)

500 Wearable Art Pieces Deadline approaching very soon! Lark Books seeks images to publish in a juried celebration of artwear. Submissions may include garments and accessories worn on the body (hats, gloves, scarves, etc.) All surface design techniques and fabrics welcome; no jewelry, please. To be released in Spring 2009, this book aims to showcase a fabulous, fun, and funky collection that will inspire amateur crafters, professional designers, and everyone in between. <http://www.larkbooks.com>

Las Vegas Arts Council 18th Annual National Juried Art Exhibition Deadline February 1, 2008. Faces of Woman [http://www.lasvegasartscouncil.org/exhib\\_faces.htm](http://www.lasvegasartscouncil.org/exhib_faces.htm) March 17 – April 11, 2008

A Tear in the Fabric: The Conceptually Driven Quilt California Polytechnic State University Art Gallery, San Luis Obispo, CA Quilts must be no smaller than 36 inches square and no larger than 90 inches square. Deadline for submission: 2 -1-08. Please include a brief explanation of quilt. Send your digital or slide images to: Carolyn Mazloomi , 5481 Oldgate Drive ,West Chester, OH 45069 Email: [CLM@carolynmazloomi.com](mailto:CLM@carolynmazloomi.com).

## The Book Bag

Two exciting new books have just arrived in the mail. They profess to be about knitting, but really inspire the reader to much more. I've "borrowed" the descriptions below from the Amazon web site.

**KnitKnit: Profiles + Projects from Knitting's New Wave** by Sabrina Gschwandtner

"Sabrina Gschwandtner's book *KnitKnit* provides an intimate look at how 27 of today's most innovative, inspiring, and groundbreaking knitters live and work.

...In Copenhagen, Denmark, Isabel Berglund hand-knit an entire room. In New England, Dave Cole constructed an enormous "knitting machine" (he used excavators and utility poles) that knit an 800-stitch, 35-by-20-foot American flag. But the projects aren't all of a monumental scale. In Los Angeles, Bridget Marrin knits little dollhouses—complete with lawns, shrubbery, and smoke-filled chimneys, all made of yarn. Using surgical wire, Indiana-based knitter Althea Merback hand-knits sweaters smaller than a dime. But *KnitKnit* does more than just document their ingenious creations. Each of the profiled knitters has contributed a project—a sweatshirt kimono, a mohair and metal belt, a pair of high-heeled boots, a geodesic-patterned cap, even a teddy bear knit from fiberglass insulation—meant to inspire you to find and follow your own creative path."

**Contemporary Knitting: For Textile Artists** by Ruth Lee

"This is not your grandmother's knitting book... unless Grandma happens to be a cool, creative textile artist. What it does have is detailed information on a spectacular range of contemporary designs—both wearable items, such as a breathtaking star-shaped neckpiece strung with glass beads, as well as exhibition pieces like the author's Spirit Dresses, knitted from insulated bell wire. Other materials used include paper yarn, plastics, rope, elastics—and even regular knitting yarn! Ruth Lee, whose work has been shown in London's Victoria and Albert Museum, offers a wealth of background on techniques from big knitting and knitting in rounds, to wrapping, coiling, and twining. Plus: dozens of color photographs provide powerful inspiration for adventurous knitters."

## November Guild Meeting

The November guild meeting was conducted by Sheila Schaeffer-Hirsh in Susan's absence. Good job, Sheila!

There were a number of visitors, including several men, and one new member. Gale Wessel gave a brief report on the Fine Art of Fiber – the show went mostly smoothly, and we did well financially. We all ogled beads, made by Patty Benbow, which will be the focus of our January mini-workshop. The Service chair, Jeanette Page, is collecting sample sizes of shampoo, lotion, etc. for our host church, Gloria Dei, and conducted a patch-cutting event after the meeting.

Our very own Barbara Schneider took us east to west across China with a fascinating digital presentation. We saw markets, yurts, people and camels – and, lots of textiles, textures and interesting scenery. And she had many, many interesting garments and fabrics for us to look at. Thanks, Barbara!

Then we had Show and Tell, including the work of one of our gentlemen visitors who showed photos of his beautiful paper-crimping. Stay tuned for more on this.

The meeting was followed by lunch without the teacher, and then much slicing and dicing of fabric for Linus quilts.

See you in January.

## January and February

### Mini Workshops

#### January 8, 2008

Did you see Patty Benbow's fabulous necklace at the October meeting? It is a striking combination of fabric beads, wire and other beads. She has agreed to teach us how to make it in a mini-workshop after the January meeting. She says, "Fabric beads are wonderful for using up your leftover beads and fabric scraps. I'll provide fabric, beads, wire and most other supplies. Bring your all-purpose and fabric scissors. If you have roundnose and chainnose pliers and wire cutters, bring those, too. The cost of the mini-workshop is \$12.

**February 5, 2008** mini-workshop will be Kim Darling's adorable fairy doll. This tiny, whimsical pixie is a no-sew assemblage of silk flowers and other easy-to-use components. One of these is included in the Urn Raffle for the Fine Art of Fiber. A sample or a photo will be available at the January meeting. Cost: \$12.

## Annual Project for May 2008

Remember our Annual Project will be held in May, 2008. The subject is TIES. I'm sure you all have something in mind already. After all, the holidays are times for "family ties" such as they are. Memories "tie" us together. Don't forget those famous "Christmas Ties" Over the years we've all seen some, shall we say, "unusual" ties. But the subject is open for other ideas too. Ties in races, ties that join and bind, there are musical ties and on and on. Raid closets or garage sales and make something of actual ties.

Of course we all love to participate just for the fun and recognition of our hard work but don't forget there is a prize involved too. The first category is for previous winners. The second category is for those who may have participated previously and did not win, and for new participants. Both prizes are \$75.00 toward any workshop.

Get busy and impress us all. Can't wait to see some of the beautiful and of course, funky, works of art you gals will design.

Have fun and good luck!

Dottie Purpura

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## Service Update

Thanks to Jan Kent, in 2008 Service will be having a new fleece project, which you will see in January. Some of you may have seen her creation at the Holiday Party. (Save all your scraps and unused fleece). It is a real heart warmer! The pattern will be available at the January meeting.

It has been suggested, also that we consider making pillow covers, possibly tote bags and cot covers. These were greatly appreciated last year and continue to be on the service agenda.

The fabric and precut 8" and 4 1/2" squares were a big hit at Project Linus and we will continue to use up your fabric stash so you can buy the latest collections. A quilting group is sewing together the 4 1/2" squares to go with the "Kids helping Kids Program". They greatly appreciated the idea of precut stuff. Thanks to all of you who helped cut squares after the November meeting and to those of you sending in fabric. We will continue to do this throughout the year and templates are still available.

If you have any questions or comments please call or e-mail me.

Jeanette Page

**First Class Mail**