

# Loose Ends & Gathered Threads

Newsletter of the North Suburban NeedleArts Guild  
March 2011

*When your work speaks for itself, don't interrupt. ~ Henry J. Kaiser*

## President's Message

As many of you know, I like to create in many materials. Many of the skills I have were learned in a North Suburban NeedleArts Guild workshop. For instance, in 1990, Helen Banes came from Washington, D.C. to lecture and teach about Needlewoven Necklaces. In her workshop, besides the wonderful necklaces, she had some interesting beads made of a substance we had never seen, polymer clay. The afternoon of the second day of the workshop she showed us how to do some simple beads. Since that time we have had several nationally-known polymer clay artists come to the Guild. I am writing this letter in Laurel, MD. where I am attending the Cabin Fever Clay Festival for a week. This morning I started a class with Lindly Hunani. I also have classes scheduled with 7 other artists. I hope to have some Show and Tell to share with you. One of my instructors, Christi Friesen, will be our featured speaker at the March meeting. I have had classes with her and know that she is an extremely entertaining speaker, in addition to being a talented artist and teacher. She has the knack of making polymer clay easy and fun for everyone, even those who have never tried it.

At the March meeting we will have our Annual Members' Sale. Be sure to bring your pocketbook so that you can buy treasures from the 20 members who will be selling things.

The April meeting will include our Annual Project. I hope that everyone will submit something on the theme of Heads or Tails. Roz De Boer has more details later in this letter. (I'm feeling very smug because mine is done!)

Also in April, Cathy Mendola will present the programs she has lined up for the 2011-2012 year. Again you'll need your pocketbook, this time to pay your dues so that in May you can sign up for the fascinating workshops she has planned.

The return of some warmer weather reminds me that Spring will soon be here. So grab your favorite supplies, add at least a little bit with a threaded needle, and go create a Heads or Tails piece.

See you in March!

Alice

## CALENDAR

**Tues. Mar. 1, 9 - 9:30 am** Socializing, sign up for workshops, at Gloria Dei, Cherry and Pfingsten in Northbrook

**9:30 am Lecture, Christi Friesen** Designing Art Jewelry with Mixed Media

**after the meeting: Members' Sale.** See p. 6

**Wed.-Thurs. Mar. 2-3 Workshop, Christi Friesen.** Beads, Buttons and Blooms

**Tues. Mar. 15, 10 am Board meeting** at Gloria Dei

**Thurs. Mar. 17, noon. April newsletter deadline**

**Tues. Mar. 24, One Step Beyond** at Kay Kleczewski's house (see p. 6)

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Visit our website: [www.needleartsguild.com](http://www.needleartsguild.com)

<b>NSNG Board 2010-11</b>			
President	Alice Jenks	847-255-6796	queenalicejenks@aol.com
1st Vice President	Rhonda Newman		mail@rhondanewman.com
2nd Vice President	Cathy Mendola	847-482-0677	dola3217@att.net
Assistant to VPs	Barbie Eich	847-564-4232	barbill0665@comcast.net
Secretary	Judy Colpack	847-717-0572	mjwcolpack@comcast.net
Treasurer	Pam Novey	847-952-3854	pcn625@sbcglobal.net
Membership	Joan Nasiatka	847-272-9172	jcnpeanuts@yahoo.com
Annual Project	Roslyn DeBoer	708-532-4954	quiltsbyroz@aol.com
Publicity	Cindy Heineman	847-433-018	luckylace@aol.com
Workshops	Barbara Fry	847-827-7166	bgirls1@aol.com
Mini Workshops	Linda Iser Barbie Eich	847-478-5014 847-564-4232	lindaiser@gmail.com barbill0665@cmcast.net
Hospitality	Dorothy Fahey	847-438-6476	dafahey@mac.com
Historian	Mary Jo Eckhart	847-283-9216	mjeckhart@me.com
Service	Jeanette Page Nancy Calandra	847-564-1057 847-541-0016	quilterjp@sbcglobal.net rjcnmc74@comcast.net
Summer Seminar 2011	Beth Polonsky Valerie Rodelli	847-255-0116 847-991-9674	beth30154@gmail.com rodvd@aol.com
Newsletter	Mary McManus	708-771-4523	marym@mcmanusdesign.net
FAOF 2010	Gale Wessel	847-634-1455	GKWessel@comcast.net

*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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1/4 page \$8 per issue or \$50 for 8 issues

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Mary McManus, ed.

mrmcmanus@gmail.com or

marym@mcmanusdesign.net

## March 1-3, 2011 Christi Friesen

Christi Friesen is an award-winning artist and author of 8 books on polymer clay and mixed media art. She teaches all over the country and internationally. Her pieces have won top awards in the Bead Dreams contest, the Bead Arts Awards, the International Wearable Arts Exhibitions and others.

Her teaching style embraces the joy of creating, stressing the individuality of creativity while imparting the foundations of the craft. Her sense of humor and relaxed teaching style make her classes fun as well as informative.

### **Lecture: Designing art jewelry with mixed media Workshop: Beads, Buttons and Blooms:**

Two days of clay with Christi Friesen. Polymer clay is an amazingly versatile medium, combining well with beads and fibers. In this workshop event, we will explore those connections while we create a series of finished polymer clay and mixed media pieces.

The workshop will begin with buttons and move on to more intricate floral pieces that can be used as components for an art necklace, or be used individually as brooches or focal beads. Finally, we will explore several concepts using embellished polymer clay to add a dimensional component to quilting and fiber arts. Since polymer clay is waterproof, colorfast and lightweight, adding polymer embellishments to fiber projects opens a window of exciting possibilities, and the workshop will wrap up with a foray into these possibilities.

In this two-day class, you will learn all the basics of polymer clay sculptural work, as well as finishing techniques, to incorporating the clay into art jewelry pieces, fiber works, doll sculpture and more.

Website: <http://www.cforiginals.net/>

## April 5-7, 2011 Rachel Nelson-Smith

Rachel Nelson-Smith, author of *Seed Bead Fusion*, is a master beadweaver whose work is infused with her unique combination of fabrication techniques. With a wealth of knowledge and fearless adventure, needle and tools shape bold and vibrant works alive with enormous energy and dynamism. Finding inspiration in surrounding nature, pure color, and beads themselves, Rachel creates pieces reflecting the world she sees around her.

Coloring outside the lines, an approach based in freedom allows her to extemporaneously express thoughts as they happen—with wide use of color and energy, physical manifestations are created in beads and wire.

Examples of her dynamic finished work have appeared in *Masters: Beadweaving* (Carol Wilcox Wells, 2008, Lark Books) where she was featured along with other modern beadweaving masters in 2008 as well as seven projects in Kate Shoup Welsh's *Not Your Mama's Beading* (2006, Wiley Publishing) and instructional jewelry-making books by Marcia DeCoster (2009) and Sharilyn Miller (2009). Rachel works a dual focus of pushing the boundaries of improvisational beadweaving combinations and wire techniques and to amaze the viewer.

### **Lecture: Creative process: sculptural beadwork Workshop: Beon Freo cuff and techniques**

Learn several beadweaving stitches, then explore beading freely and answering the question "what if." Discuss possibilities for your piece including components and overall feel, assembly and finishing. Printed directions with illustration for the base, fringe, and several components are provided. We'll begin with flat peyote and bezeling with tubular peyote, herring bone fringe, and right-angle weave with a small amount of optional wire working techniques.

Website: <http://www.msRachel.com/>

## **Binder for Fine Art of Fiber Education Table – Help Now Please!**

Those at February's meeting heard that Kay Kleczweski has decided to stand down as chair of the Education table at the Fine Art of Fiber. Kay has headed this up for many years, and has done a wonderful job. Thank you, Kay!

Many of you will know that I (Sue Babbs) have been demonstrating lace making at said table since November 2000, and so I volunteered to take over this responsibility.

The people whose attention we really want to grab at the Education Table are those who might join NSNG. To that end, I am hoping that this year we might make a standard 3-ring binder, (or binders, if you all respond!) to demonstrate the breadth of what we do in this Guild.

The 5x5 display is great at showing our diversity, and is very attractive. However we find that we get questions about who made each piece and what techniques were involved, and those present at the table may or may not be able to answer all questions. Also we discourage the public from handling the 5x5 pieces, and people do so love to be hands on!

Consequently, I am inviting each of you to create at least one small piece of work or submit a sample in your favorite technique (guidelines below) for this binder. (We will continue to display the 5x5s.)

You are also welcome to submit photos for inclusion of for example: completed pieces of work; 3-D (jewelry, dolls, books, clothing etc.), working techniques and workshops. I will endeavor to include everything I am sent.

Guidelines for piece to be included in binder

- All work should be less than 6.5 inches x 9 inches. If you wish, pieces can be much smaller. Larger pieces will be trimmed to fit. All pieces will be mounted on black.
- Work does not have to be complete – but good enough for you to have your name associated with it! Bound edges aren't necessary.
- Samples from workshops will be readily included (give teacher's name too).
- Please write a brief description of your pieces or photos, explaining the technique used, and the fibers involved.
- Photographs should be submitted to me electronically where possible, preferably as .jpeg files of sufficient size to be blown up without looking grainy.
- Please make sure your name is on all submissions.

The sooner I have everything the better, as I suspect it will take a considerable amount of time to display everything to best advantage. It would great if you could get them to me before Summer Seminar.

Many thanks in anticipation!

Sue Babbs (suebabbs@comcast.net  
847- 446 5251)

### **Reading and Language Arts Tutor**

Vicki Collins, M.Ed.

847-564-1419 (Northbrook)

9 years experience specializing in grades 7-12

Masters of Education, special education, Illinois Teaching Certification (Learning Behavior Specialist) for grades K-12.

B.S. in Communications, secondary education grades 7-12

Approved tutor on the International Dyslexic Association website, Orton Gillingham trained ACT English, reading, and writing

*paid advertisement*

## Summer Seminar—Don't Miss Out

Assure your spot in Summer Seminar by signing up soon. Publicity has gone out to outside groups, guilds, schools, and art organizations. The class descriptions are below and samples will be at the meeting to help you make your decision.

By signing up in March and April, you will avoid a rush in May when sign-ups will begin for the 2011-12 guild programs. Although it seems far away, it really is not. Summer Seminar is JUNE 8-12, 2011.

Join those already signed up and insure your spot in your class of choice.

Descriptions of the 5 classes are below:

### **Alma de la Melena Cox**

Alma is an experienced teacher who is from San Rafael, California. She has taught extensively, taken her inspiration from worldwide traveling and from her interest in photography. Alma has art pieces in many galleries and museums. She is the author of a book called *Collage Fusion: Vibrant Wood and Fabric Art Using Telemadera Techniques*. She has been featured on PBS and Quilting Arts TV. She will be teaching 3 classes for us.

**The 3-day class is "Telemadera Fusion" (June 8 -10, 2011—Wed. through Friday).** Telemadera Fusion is a combination of Wood and Fabric. Students will make 3 projects with this technique...an 11x11 inch Telemadera Fusion, a 12x16 inch Telemadera Fusion with Art Quilt and a 13x13 inch Telemadera Fusion Photo Album. You will learn the technique and how to apply it to various projects: woodburning, fabric, other embellishments, paint, and varnish applied to a wooden plaque.

**The first 1-day class (June 11, 2011, Saturday) is "Fabric and Matte Gel."** Participants will create one 12x16 inch Wood and Fabric piece of artwork using extra heavy gel medium in matte finish. This will create the look of encaustic and/or impasto painting techniques. In this process, the student can layer in virtually anything, as this technique produces a thick final covering.

**Another 1-day class (June 12, 2011, Sunday) is "Wood and Fabric Jewelry and Fabric and 3D paint Card Making."** This is a quick and fun process done with cardstock. The student can produce jewelry out of the cardstock, or just use the paper for other mixed media or bookmaking projects. Beads and other ephemera can be used. Alma will actually bring some clay faces to use with this class.

These are fun and very do-able classes. Alma provides most of the supplies in the supply fee. ( [www.almaart.com](http://www.almaart.com) )

### **Jeanette deNicolis Meyer**

Jeannette is a fiber and surface design artist who lives in Portland, Oregon. She has taught for 10 years at the Studio School at the Oregon College of Art and Craft. Her work has been exhibited in several museums, been accepted into many juried shows, and, is in galleries, public agencies, and corporate and private collections. She is very interested in the art process, and fosters a passion for artists developing their own voices. Jeannette will be teaching 2 classes for us.

**The 3-day class (June 8 -10, 2011, Wednesday through Friday) is "Fold, Gather, Clamp, and Wrap—Shibori Basics."** Students will explore not only where the dye goes, but where it doesn't go. This class concentrates on surface design. The participant will experiment with unusual art techniques, and come out of this class with a sampling of techniques for their own portfolio. She supplies most of the materials in the supply fee. This class is customized for us and promises to be informative, experimental, and fun.

**The 2-day class ( June 11-12, Saturday and Sunday) is Art Quilt Construction Techniques.** This class is for the artist who wants to use the quilt as an expressive medium. She will teach fabric manipulation, curves, reverse applique, cut-throughs and other construction techniques. These techniques will emphasize the use of translucent fabrics, that will be provided, with the manipulation techniques. The techniques can also be used with other types of fabric. After this class the student will have many more techniques for their portfolio for use in future art quilts.

Jeannette stresses individuality, but gently guides you along the way with design and composition principles. ([www.jdmeyer.com](http://www.jdmeyer.com))

These classes will be exciting and productive. There will be samples from both teachers at the meeting—take a look! Register now to guarantee your spot in your choice of classes. Registration is now open to everyone. Sign up at meetings or get a registration form online and send it in to NSQG, or go to [www.needleartsguild.com](http://www.needleartsguild.com) for info.

Any questions call  
847-255-0116 or 847-991-9674.  
Beth Polonsky  
Val Rodelli  
Summer Seminar 2011

## Annual Project

*One month* until the annual project unveiling! I will be excited to see all the wonderful interpretations of "Heads or Tails?" Opposites, two sides of the same coin, choices, something else? How is your entry going? Guidelines are in the hot pink membership book on the "page after the staple" under #7 of the Standing Rules.

*There is still time* to make an entry and take your shot at the \$75 workshop gift certificate for the 2011-2012 season.

Extra theme interpretation idea for this month is "Top to Bottom." Hope your annual project is on the front burner this month and the ideas are bubbling up to the top!

Roz DeBoer

## Call for Entry

### Uncommon Threads

**Deadline: June 1, 2011** (Postmark)

25th Annual Uncommon Threads

Fashion Show, Luncheon and Boutique

The Stonegate Conference & Banquet Centre

Hoffman Estates, Illinois

October 16, 2011

Participation is open to all one-of-a-kind wearable art in any fiber related media. Work represented must be an original concept, must be for sale and executed by the artist. You must be a current Fine Line member to participate in the Boutique. New applicants can become members of Fine Line by remitting an additional check for \$35. A \$20 non-refundable jury fee is required with your application.

Submit five color slides, digital images (JPG files) on CD, or actual samples showing the quality and type of work to be exhibited. Slides and samples will be returned; CDs will not.

Download prospectus and application: [www.fineline.org/2011uncommonthreads.pdf](http://www.fineline.org/2011uncommonthreads.pdf)

Fine Line Creative Arts Center

6n158 Crane Road

St. Charles, Illinois 60175

630.584.9443

[info@fineline.org](mailto:info@fineline.org)

## Members' Sale after March 1 meeting

Who can resist a shopping spree? The annual members' sale will take place on March 1st after the regular meeting. There are 21 NeedleArts members who will be selling an assortment of needle art related items. This is always a very fun event and we are looking forward to everyone supporting our own talented members. So plan to stay for a while after the meeting as you are sure to leave with something very special. You might be able to window shop before the meeting as the members are setting up, but all monetary transactions will take place *after* the meeting.

To those members who are selling that day, here are a few things you need to know:

1) You may start setting up at 8:35.

2) You will need to bring a large table cloth (or other cloth) to cover your display during the meeting. You might also want to bring something to cover your table as part of your display. The tables are 8 feet long.

3) Remember to bring along some change to make your monetary transactions.

4) The regular membership cannot purchase anything until after the meeting.

Please plan to stay *after* the meeting to *shop!*

## One Step Beyond...

...will be March 22, 2011 at the home of Kay Kleczewski, 1457 6th Ave., Des Plaines, IL 60018. The meeting time is 9:30 AM. If you plan to attend, please call Kay at 847-824-0339 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.

## Volunteer needed for Important Board Job: Hospitality Chair

Your primary job will be dealing with the Workshop Teachers. Arranging transportation to and from the airport if this is the way they are arriving. Talking with them prior to arrival as to whether they want to stay at a hotel or members home. Getting their food preference and relaying that info to Barbie Eich (general meeting lunch) and the Workshop Hostess (workshop lunch). You will also have to find out if she wants to see anything special while she is here and then make those arrangements.

Your secondary job will be making arrangements for the Holiday Party and Summer Picnic.

This is a 2 year commitment with monthly attendance at the Board Meetings.

If you want to call Dorothy Fahey to find out more about this job feel free to do so; she is listed in our Hot Pink Directory. After you talk with her if you decide you want this job call Joan Nasiatka, 847-272-9172 or Kay Kleczewski, 847-824-0339 to let us know that you're taking the job.

Looking forward to hearing from you.

The Nominating Committee

## Service Update

We have been very busy making up kits for those who would like to make preemie blankets, isolette covers and toddler blankets to sew for the Rush Prenatal Unit. We are always looking for flannel and batting, denim for the literacy bags, and any cotton material for pillowcases. Thank you to those who have already contributed their time and talent. In March we will *not* meet on the 2nd Tuesday for our Service Day at Barbie Eich's. Stay tuned for future dates.

Nancy Calandra

## Picture, Picture

Is your picture missing in the directory? Please stop at the sign-in table and have your picture taken if it is missing, you're a new member, or if you don't like the one we're using at the present time. You can also email me at [jcnpeanuts@yahoo.com](mailto:jcnpeanuts@yahoo.com) with your picture as a jpeg attachment.

### Studio 221

**Textile artist Maggie Weiss** will be leading independent workshops in her studio at the Noyes Cultural Art Center, 927 Noyes St., #221, Evanston. To register contact Maggie at [mstmaggie6@comcast.net](mailto:mstmaggie6@comcast.net) or 847-571-1385.

#### **26 February 2011, Saturday—Notan Square Design**

Explore the Japanese design principle of light/dark as you create a series of unique designs for fabric, paper or printmaking. Notan will increase awareness of harmony in design and composition and is a meditative process. Students produce original images that will inform and enrich future work. All levels. \$60

Supplies to bring: Pencil, glue stick, Xacto knife w/ sharp blade, cutting mat. Optional: Sketchbook 9 x 12 or 11 x 17". larger.

#### **5 March 2011, Saturday—Stamp Carving & Design**

Enjoy the calm satisfaction of stamp carving and printing with a variety of media for eye catching results. Images can be enlarged into quilting designs in fabric and used as silkscreen patterns too. All levels. \$60 + Kit fee \$20  
Supplies: Xacto knife w/sharp blade.

#### **12 March 2011, Saturday—Dye Printing**

Brush, stamp, monoprint and screen print with thickened non-toxic dyes on cotton, rayon, linen or silk fabric. Students will have a variety of samples at the end of the day. All levels. \$60 + kit fee \$25

Supplies: 2 - 3 yards Prewashed fabric or PFD scarves, clothes, etc.

#### **16 April 2011—Sheer Silk Collage**

Create a fabric collage with sheer silks and other fabrics as you learn how to successfully apply fusible adhesives for effective layering. All levels. \$75 + kit fee \$35

Supplies: Silk scraps, 18x22" backing fabric

*paid advertisement*

## Workshops

In spite of the weather and rescheduling, the workshop with RaeAnn Collins was great! I hope all of you will bring your books to the meeting.

My first workshops in beading, polymer clay and book-making were all done at the NeedleArts Guild with some of the top teachers in their fields. You still have a few opportunities to learn something new, build on current skills and get to know more guild members. The March workshop on polymer clay with Christi Friesen has only one spot available, so let me know as soon as possible if you are interested. The manufacturer is supplying the clay. The April and May workshops still have some spaces left. The beading workshop in April is designed to teach some bead stitches, then use them to bead a bracelet. The air brush technique for May is probably new to many of us; this is a good time to find out if this is something you would like to pursue. Check out the supply lists on our website, then let me know if you are interested.

Barbara Fry, Workshop Chairman

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

## NSNG 2010-2011

### Picture Photo Directory

We still have a small number of the Picture Photo Directories. This is a valuable aid to help you put a face to the names in our hot pink Members Directory. The cost to you is \$10.00 cash or check made out to NSNG. See Joan Nasiatka at the membership sign-in table when you come to the March meeting.

**First Class Mail**