

# Loose Ends & Gathered Threads

Newsletter of the North Suburban NeedleArts Guild  
May 2008

*Envy is a symptom of lack of appreciation of our own uniqueness and self-worth. Each of us has something to give that no one else has. (Elizabeth O'Connor)*

## President's Message

"Yesterday is history, tomorrow is a mystery, and today is a gift; that's why they call it the present."  
Eleanor Roosevelt

How fortunate we are to have the time and the dexterity to channel our imaginations into the work that we love.

I have always regarded the creative work that I do as a gift—not in the conventional sense of being gifted. We speak of child prodigies as "gifted," Placido Domingo as "gifted"—not gifted in that sense.

I'm grateful for the childhood gift of consistent exposure to the arts. After all, I could have been born into a family of accountants and acrobats—not that there is anything wrong with dangling from a high wire or balancing the books.

Instead I was fortunate enough to have one grandmother who was a concert pianist and another who crocheted exquisitely. My mother taught me to be extremely observant and my father, a jeweler, taught me how to work with my hands.

Now, I dutifully try to pass along this inheritance. We share as friends and colleagues through our guild. As a grandmother, I once more get to attend puppet shows, children's theater and young people's concerts. Once again I can buy crayons and Play Dough and see the world through fresh eyes.

Thank you to the very many dedicated volunteers who have made our guild an interesting, stimulating, welcoming organization. We can look forward to Mary Jo Eckhart's leadership in the fall. I know that she will do a wonderful job as president and bring a fresh, new point of view.

Thank you for allowing me to shepherd the guild for the past two years. It's been a privilege—my present.  
Susan Fraerman

## CALENDAR

**Tues. May 6**, at Gloria Dei, Pfingsten & Cherry in Northbrook

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

**9:30 am Lecture, Donna Kato**, Polymer Clay Trunk

Show. **Voting on Annual Project—Ties.** See page 7

**After the meeting: Annual Potluck.** See page 3.

**Wed-Thurs May 7-8 Workshop: Donna Kato**, Polymer Clay Beads

**Tues. May 20, 10 am** Board meeting at Gloria Dei. There will be food. Current and outgoing board members, please bring a dish to pass. New board members do not have to bring anything.

**Tues. July 1, 11 am-3:30 pm at Gloria Dei. Indoor Picnic**, see p. 8

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**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.

## **A Television Appearance and an Exhibit**

If you were watching the Channel 5 news at 5 pm on April 15th, you will have seen our president, Susan Fraerman, in conjunction with "eMotion Pictures: An Exhibition of Orthopaedics in Art." Susan told us about this exhibit in her April column and about her moving experiences in delivering a lecture at the exhibit when it was in San Francisco. The exhibit is now at the Chicago Cultural Center through July 20th. It may be seen in the Chicago Rooms at the Center, 77 E. Randolph St., Chicago. Susan's work is included in the exhibit.

Sponsored by the American Academy of Orthopaedic Surgeons, eMotion Pictures is a juried exhibition of paintings, drawings, sculpture and photography by artists who have experienced an orthopaedic condition, and by orthopaedic surgeons who treat them.

## **Membership**

Remember, you must pay your \$30.00 dues for 2008-2009 prior to registering for next year's workshops. I must have your payment in hand before you proceed to the workshop sign up table.

You may pay your dues at the May meeting and sign up then.

Or if you prefer you may mail your check to me. I should be in receipt of your check by Saturday May 3. I would hate to have anyone miss getting a workshop because "the check is in the mail."

Now is also the time to update any information for next year's directory. Forms will be available at the membership desk and there is also a form on the website which you can print out and mail.

Looking forward to another wonderful year at NSNG,  
Mary Jo Eckhart  
NSNG

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## **May 6th Potluck after Meeting**

Bring your favorite dish for the potluck after our May 6th meeting. It is always a festive occasion with lots of good appetizers, salads, main dishes and desserts. The Guild provides drinks but you bring the food. We hope that all of you will participate.

## 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.

Workshop fee \$70, Supply Fee \$25, Total \$95

### 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.

Workshop Fee \$90, Supply fee \$25, Total \$115

### 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.

Workshop fee \$50, Supply fee \$20, Total \$70

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## Speakers and Workshops (continued)

### 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 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.judyperz.blogspot.com](http://www.judyperz.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.

Workshop fee \$65, Supply fee \$25, Total \$90

### 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.

Workshop fee \$40, Supply fee \$25, Total \$65

### 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.

Workshop fee \$55, Supply fee \$25, Total \$80

### 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.

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## Speakers and Workshops (continued)

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.

Workshop fee \$50, Supply fee \$15, Total \$65

## April Meeting Notes

The April guild meeting was big and lively and fun. Members selling things gave us just a sneak preview before we got down to business. Susan began the meeting with a cat joke. Next month she will preside over her last meeting and tell us her last joke.

Pam Relitz presented the slate for the guild year '08/'09. We will vote in May. Also in May members will also be able to sign up for next year's workshops if their dues are paid. Dues are \$30. We can no longer store anything edible at the church because of their serious ant problem. (There goes our antless picnic in July.) We should also be very careful cleaning up after our May potluck, etc.

Contracts are signed, and the Summer Seminar is good to go. Next month we will see the entries and vote on our annual project. The summer picnic, with or without ants, is scheduled for July 1. Dorothy Kroll will have a pin project for everyone to make (see p. 8). Picnickers should bring a dessert. Jeanette Page showed us several nice quilts made with squares cut by our guild members. Barbara Schneider showed slides of the work of next year's speakers and workshop presenters.

Pam Sussman was introduced and showed slides of her wonderfully artistic little books. We had Show & Tell and then the members were turned loose to buy from an interesting selection of art and art-related items. When the shopping was over we had lunch with the speaker.

Don't forget – after the May meeting we have our potluck lunch.

## Summer Seminar June 2009, Techny, IL

Our Guild will be hosting Summer Seminar at Techny Towers on June 27-July 1, 2009. We have four wonderful teachers/artists. More information will be on our website during the summer.

**Reina Mia Brill** [www.reinamiabrill.com](http://www.reinamiabrill.com)

-5 day Class -Knit Your World in Wire (Sat.-Wed. 6/27 and 7/1)

**Tricia Spitzmueller** [www.triciaspitzmueller.com](http://www.triciaspitzmueller.com)

2 day Class -Prose, Three Stages of a Woman's Life (Sat.-Sun. 6/27 and 6/28)

1 day Class -S.O.U.L. Dolls (Mon. 6/29)

1 day Class -Quirky Petal People (Tues.,6/30)

1 day Class -Inner Spirit Wrap Doll (Wed. 7/1)

**Melanie Terasaki**

2 day Class - Star Book (Sat. 6/27 to Sun.6/28)

**Maggie Weiss** [www.maggieweiss.com](http://www.maggieweiss.com)

3 day Class -"Sheer Bliss" (Mon.- Wed.. 6/29 and 7/1)

This is a great time to expand your artistic expertise. Please check out their websites and enjoy exploring them. They have a great sampling of their work. Each one is more beautiful than the next.

We promise you it will be a wonderful experience. How better to spend 1, 2, 3, or 5 days with an experienced needleart teacher and wonderful exciting people.

Our website will have the registration form available for the September meeting when Guild members can sign up. Please save these dates. If you have any questions, please call Rhonda Newman 847-564-4357.

Rhonda Newman

Beth Polonsky

Sheila Schaeffer-Hirsh

## FAOF 5 x 5 project

We're on our way! At the April meeting Barbara Eich and Marcia Hartnel each brought a great little 5 x 5 for our FAOF project.

Thank you!

We hope to see many more squares in May. For the guidelines, see the April issue of the newsletter or call Jan Kent, Pam Relitz or Sandra Geis.

## Alphabet Soup

For May, we have replaced The Book Bag with a list of four very worthwhile organizations supporting the needle arts.

SDA <http://www surfacedesign.org>

**Surface Design Association** – a non-profit organization since 1977. The mission of Surface Design Association is to increase awareness, understanding, and appreciation of textiles in the art and design communities as well as in the general public.

More than 4000 members – a broad spectrum of textile practitioners including studio artists, industrial designers, educators, technicians, curators, gallery owners, interior designers, students, and enthusiasts. Members receive their outstanding journal and newsletter.

HGA <http://www.weavespindye.org>

### **Handweavers Guild of America**

Founded in 1969 to inspire creativity and encourage excellence in the fiber arts, the Handweavers Guild of America, Inc., brings together weavers, spinners, dyers, basketmakers, fiber artists and educators. HGA provides educational programs, conferences, and an award-winning quarterly publication, Shuttle Spindle & Dyepot, to its members.

FFI Founded in 1991, **Friends of Fiber Art International** is dedicated to tell the world about the art medium of the 21st century - fiber - which includes artworks using flexible materials or constructed in textile techniques.

Approximately 400 members from 40 of the United States and 18 other nations join together in the belief that a support group at large will make a difference in the art world's appreciation of contemporary fiber art. The membership is almost equally divided between artists and collectors with ten percent affiliated with museums and galleries. Web site under construction. Write for information to: Friends of Fiber Art International, Box 468, Western Springs, IL 60558

SAQA Studio Art Quilt Associates <http://www.saqa.com/>

**Studio Art Quilt Associates, Inc.** (SAQA) is a non-profit international organization whose mission is to promote the art quilt through education, exhibitions, professional development and documentation. Founded in 1989 by an initial group of 50 artists, SAQA now boasts over 1,700 members: artists, teachers, collectors, gallery owners, museum curators and corporate sponsors. SAQA publishes a newsletter and e.Bulletin addressing the professional needs of the working quilt artist.

## Annual Project

Coming up at the May 6, 2008 Meeting

Voting for the Annual Project is scheduled for the May 6, 2008, meeting. The two lucky winners, will receive \$75.00 toward a workshop. The two categories are (1) Winner's circle, consisting of previous first-place winners, and (2) General participants, consisting of everyone else.

The subject this year is TIES. Projects can be quilts, wall hangings, soft sculpture, purses, in other words, almost anything. The work should have some part made with a threaded needle. The TIE subject is wide open and can be something like "family TIES," mai TIES". railroad TIES, or actual TIES.

In addition, winners can display the projects at the Fine Art of Fiber Show, in November, 2008. It is a fine, (no pun intended) place to showcase your work.

Time is running out, but you still have plenty of hours to finish up those TIE projects for the May 6th meeting. See you there.

## Calls For Entry

**Rare Threads on the Fringe** The Jordan River Arts Council (JRAC) is sponsoring its fifth fiber arts show "Rare Threads on the Fringe" which opens Sunday, September 14, 2008 and closes Sunday, October 12, 2008.

Slides or photos (jpegs) and entry forms due by July 14, 2008

Entry forms can be found at: <http://www.jordanriv-erarts.com/>

**2008 National Small Art Quilt Works Exhibition** Work may not be larger than 16 inches by 20 inches in dimension. All artwork must be for sale. Deadline June 7, 2008. More information at:

<http://www.mainstreetgal.com>

**Quilt National '09** The sixteenth international juried competition for new innovative quilts, on display May 23 – September 7, 2009 at the Dairy Barn Cultural Arts Center in Athens, Ohio (USA). Entry deadline is September 5, 2008. Jurors will grant over \$6,000 in prizes. Work selected for the exhibition will tour throughout the United States through 2011 and will be published in a full-color catalog .

For entry form, SASE business-size envelope with 2-ounce postage to QN '09 Entry Form, Dairy Barn Arts Center, P.O. Box 747, Athens, OH 45701-0747 [www.quiltnational.com](http://www.quiltnational.com)

## **NSNG Indoor Picnic Tues. July 1, 2008**

Workshop Project

Felt Pin—Kit Fee \$5.00

You will be making a felt pin, using a shape of your choosing , (eg. flower, circle, square, etc.) and 10 different colors of felt.

Note: You will need to bring:

Scissors and or cutting mat, cutter and ruler, and a thimble, if you use one.

If you are not using a French knot to hold your shapes down, you might like to use a small bead.

You can again view samples at the May meeting.

Please sign up with Alice Jenks so that we will know how many are coming. We need to know in order to have enough kits for the project and food for everyone. Participants are asked to bring a dessert.

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

FAOF Raffle 2008 is seeking your wonderful hand made items. We have a large, wrought iron, three tier, basket stand to fill with fabulous fancies. Looking for ideas? Our Raffle Registry, passed around at each meeting, will be sure to generate ideas.

Pam Relitz

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**First Class Mail**