

Loose Ends & Gathered Threads

Newsletter of the North Suburban NeedleArts Guild
September 2008

*Trust that you are exactly where you are supposed to be on your creative journey.
You cannot get 'there' without being 'here.' ~ Pam Godderis*

President's Message

Welcome to a new year at North Suburban NeedleArts Guild. I would like to express my gratitude to all long-time and former guild members for their wonderful vision. It is that planning and hard work that has made NSNG what it is today: "the best guild on the planet."

I invite each of you to take advantage of all that your NSNG membership offers and hope you will be encouraged, enlightened, and excited by your guild experiences.

The quotes this year will be taken from an online class led by Pam Godderis. I have always come away enriched by Pam's ideas and I hope you will too.

Pam is a fiber artist from Vancouver, BC, Canada who quilts, exhibits, and teaches. I have taken several classes from her, both in person and online. Pam is that wonderful teacher who leads her students to make their own discoveries. Her favorite two words are "What if....?" The quotes I have chosen are replete with other words Pam often uses: "trust, creative journey, inner artist, innate designer."

I love the creativity of this group and the willingness of its members to try new things. Nearly every month I come away from our first Tuesday meeting with new ideas brewing. Sometimes an idea comes from the Speaker's talk, or from an announcement, or show and tell, but just as frequently it is from something said over our shared lunch.

Our guild is full of variously talented members. Thank goodness you are all such lovely people; you would be quite intimidating otherwise. I am awed by your work and inspired by your talent.

I often wish I had started this creative journey many years ago. But no matter where each of us is on our creative journey, Pam reminds us that we are in just the right place.

Mary Jo Eckhart

CALENDAR

Tues. Sept. 2, at Gloria Dei, Pflugsten & Cherry in Northbrook

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

9:30 am Lecture, Larkin Jean Van Horn Lecture: If One is Good, Twenty is Better

Wed-Thurs. Sept. 3-4 Workshop: Larkin Jean Van Horn, Collaged and Embellished Fabric Vessels.

Tues. Sept. 16, 10 am Board meeting at Gloria Dei.

Future Dates:

Fine Art of Fiber, Chicago Botanic Garden

November 6, Opening Night

November 7-9 Show

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1/8 page \$4 per issue or \$25 for 8 issues

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

Mary McManus, ed.

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September 2 – September 4, 2008

Larkin Jean Van Horn

Larkin is the perfect teacher to bring a sense of creativity and excitement to students in your guild or store. She 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 have 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 travelling exhibit five years running.

Lecture: If One is Good, Twenty is Better!

Workshop description: 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 inch tall.

Larkin's website:

<http://www.larkinart.com>

October 14-October 16, 2008

Fred Bloehm (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 instructor at The Sewing Workshop and other local sewing schools. She has served on the faculties for 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.

Fred 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, 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. Fred 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. This line currently has 14 patterns with more to come. These patterns feature elegant, classic clothing that have contemporary lines, flatter a wide range of ages and figures, and are simple to construct.

The lecture will be a trunk show of Fred's designs.

Collage Sweater Workshop: 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!

Fred's website:

<http://www.lafred.com>

Calls for Entry

Road to California Showcase is open to national and international entries! Showcase sections include Art Quilts, Traditional Quilts, Innovative Quilts, Pieced, Appliqué, Mixed, Other and Wearable Art. The 2009 Contest judges are Linda Carlson, Christine Porter and Lois Smith

October 1, 2008 *received* date for entries
<http://www.road2ca.com/contest.html>

Carnegie Center Presents 5th Annual "Form, Not Function: Quilt Art at the Carnegie" Exhibit. October 18, 2008 postmark date for entries.

<http://www.carnegiecenter.org/formnotfunction/index.html>

New Quilts from an Old Favorite

Each year this international MAQS contest challenges quiltmakers to create an innovative quilt based on a specific traditional pattern. Winners of the contest traditionally include quilts from many different U.S. states and several other countries.

Quilts are selected for their excellence in design and techniques, their innovations, and their contributions to an exhibit showing the wide range of designs and styles the selected traditional pattern can inspire.

In cooperation with the American Quilter's Society, a catalog is published, featuring the award-winning and finalist quilts in full color, with a photo of the maker, information about the quilt's development, and patterns and tips.

2009 Contest - Theme: Burgoyne Surrounded
<http://www.quiltmuseum.org/>

See Contests: New Quilts from an Old Favorite

5 x 5 Project

Ah, where did the summer go? Fall is around the corner, and so is the Fine Art of Fiber. Remember the 5 x 5 members' collage project? Sure you do!

The committee (Pam Relitz, Sandra Geis, Jan Kent) hope to have lots of 5 inch square fiber pieces to put together into a fabulous hanging for FAOF. In fact, one per member would be wonderful.

So, use up that extra bit of another project, finish something from a workshop, try out a new technique. Think lace, embroidery, buttons, ribbons, sequins, crocheting, braiding, knitting, beads, fabric paint . . . Don't worry about the Annual Project "threaded needle" rule.

Here are the rules and regs:

Squares must be 5 inches by 5 inches

Squares must be rigid/sturdy enough to be hung from the corners

Squares cannot be heavy or extremely thick.

Squares must be viewable from both sides

Squares become guild property and will not have the name of the maker on them

It must be possible to get a needle through the corners of the squares

We hope to see lots and lots and lots of them at the September meeting.

Questions? Call Pam or Sandra or Jan

Kimono Lady© Pattern Now Available:

Jennifer Gould's newly published pattern for this 14" tall doll of understated elegance has hair of black grosgrain and a long, thin and flat silhouette, making her the ideal adornment for a narrow wall or standing in a duet. Pattern is available on her website,

JenniferGouldDesigns.com and

jennifergould.Etsy.com or call 616-878-1526.

paid advertisement

Fine Art of Fiber

It's time to get working on your piece for the exhibition. We are still getting the Joutras Gallery this year again so we will have room for more quilts than in the past. The Gallery will be showing the "Robes" show but the wall will be open for quilts.

Remember there are three simple rules which must be followed—you must be a member of the guild, a threaded needle has to be used somewhere in the work, and you need to work a shift somewhere in the show.

If you have made something in an NSNG workshop during the year, this can be displayed in our area in the Education area. We would really value these pieces as a means of demonstrating the breadth of talent in the this Guild.

Forms for entering can be obtained by going to the Fine Art of Fiber website. <http://www.fineartoffiber.org/>

Botanical Challenge

We have also been given the use of the hallway between the exhibition hall and the Joutras Gallery for the first time this year. Since we are at the Botanic Garden we decided to have a Botanical Challenge for that area. The submissions can not be large so it was decided to limit them to a total of 60 inches, which would be the total of two side of the piece. Nothing can exceed 60 inches total length and width added. (For example, 15 inches by 45 inches would be fine. It could also be any size smaller). Let's have a good turn out for this!

Volunteers

We will need volunteers for all areas for the FAOF. We always need volunteers for set-up, take-down, and white glove people. Please think of helping even if you won't have anything in the show. It is great to see the show and know that you are a part of it. There will be a sign up sheet at the meeting for volunteers.

Silent Auction

We need donations for the Silent Auction of the FAOF. There is still time for everyone to make something that can be auctioned. It doesn't have to be big, just something that someone would want to bid on. We had a very nice display last year. Let's see if we can do even better this year!

The Silent Auction is a significant part of the Fine Art of Fiber Show. It offers a wonderful assortment of items for sale to the general public and, at the same time, helps to generate funds for our guild. The silent auction is also a terrific opportunity to highlight your items for sale in the boutique, as we tell people, and have printed on the bid sheet, if the artist has other items for sale at the show.

Remember, you must use a threaded needle somewhere in the construction of your item.

Summer Seminar June 2009

Techny, IL

As previous announced, our Guild will be hosting Summer Seminar at Techny Towers on June 27-July 1, 2009. We have four wonderful teachers/artists. Information about Summer Seminar and the cost for each workshop is on our website.

Reina Mia Brill www.reinamiabrill.com

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

Tricia Spitzmueller 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

-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. 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 needle art teacher and wonderful exciting people.

The registration form is available at our website. After the September meeting we will open registration to the public. So, please register early.

If you have any questions, please call Rhonda 847-564-4357.

Rhonda Newman

Beth Polonsky

Sheila Schaeffer-Hirsh

Service Update 2008-09

Please, at the September Meeting, stop by the Service table and see the various projects that the guild participates in such as making cot sheets, Project Linus blankets, collecting cotton fabric for members to cut 8" and 4 1/2" squares for Project Linus, bags for both children and adults that are in Safe Houses, hotel "freebies" that you might collect in your wanderings, and worn sheets to be used to make bandage rolls. If in doubt as to an object's usefulness just ask and I will be happy to let you know if we can find a use for your surplus "Stuff".

Another idea was suggested for Service, and in discussing it with other members found that in the past there was a table next to the service table for "Stuff" that members no longer had a use for and other members could take from the table for their own use. This table will be called the North Suburban Needle Arts Guild Recycling Center. Objects left on the table can be reclaimed or as Service Person I will be happy to find a loving home for the "Stuff". Please reclaim any books, however, that are left, as they are too heavy for me to manage.

We are always looking for new needs in your communities and will consider any suggestions.

Please e-mail me at JeanettePage@sbcglobal.net or call 847-564-1057. Thanks!

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

Followup on Annual Project

Subject: Ties

Our Annual Project was held at the May 2008 meeting and was a huge success. As usual, our NSNG members came through with terrific projects. There were 15 entries in the General Group and 4 in the Winners Circle. We had everything from purses and wearable garments made from actual ties, to quilts and beaded projects with a tie theme. The amount of design effort and workmanship was truly appreciated by all. There were lots of "oohs and ahhs and look at this" heard everywhere. What a terrific group!

Our winners each received \$75.00 toward a workshop of their choice. The Winner's Circle prize went to Gayle Wessel for her quilted project "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn" and the General winner was Laurie Korte for her unique Quilted Tie Purse. Congratulations and a *big* thank you to all of the participants for giving us the opportunity to see your artistic productions.

Dottie Purpura

2008 Prairie Star Quilt Guild

Fall Show

Date: Saturday and Sunday, September 27 and 28

Time: Sat. 10 a.m. - 5 p.m.

Sun. 10 a.m. - 4 p.m.

The show will include a used book and magazine sale, silent auction and raffle baskets.

Place:

Prisco Community Center

Fox Valley Park District

150 W. Illinois Avenue

Aurora, IL 60506

Prisco Community Center is located on the corner of Lake Street and Illinois Avenue in Aurora.

It is situated in McCullough Park, facing the scenic Fox River.

Hospitality

We are all looking forward to the new speakers and workshops for the coming year. In this regard, we will need people to host the speakers at your home for approximately three days. If you are attending the workshop or meeting and want to learn more about the teacher, this is an ideal way to have more time with her. Also, we need workshop hostesses (one person per workshop) to help set up the room each day and make sure we have everything we need.

For September, we need a workshop hostess; for October we need a home to host the teacher, as well as a workshop hostess. Please contact me by phone or e-mail—pcn625@sbcglobal.net

Let's extend a warm welcome for these excellent teachers we enjoy so much.

Pam Novey

Hospitality Chairperson

Workshops

Remember the anticipation that accompanied the new box of crayons and fresh notebooks at the start of a new school year? Think about workshops as your adult version of the new crayons and fresh notebooks—opportunities to learn and create something new.

Look over the workshop descriptions on our website and bring your checkbook to the September meeting so you can register for the workshop of your dreams! After the September meeting, all workshops with openings are open to people outside the Guild. Secure your spots now. Spaces are available for all workshops, except Judy Coates Perez in February.

Larkin Jean Van Horn will teach our September workshop "Collaged and Embellished Fabric Vessels." There are still four more places available, so sign up now. To register call Gretchen Alexander at 847-998-6040 or at gretchen.alexander@sbcglobal.net.

Save Ten Bucks

Save ten dollars off your new or renewal membership at the Chicago Botanic Garden. Just mention that you are a member of NSNG and ask for your \$10 savings. If they ask, you can tell them that NSNG's membership number is 120576.

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