

THE NEEDLEWORK AND TEXTILE GUILD OF MICHIGAN

NTGM

VOLUME 10, SPECIAL EDITION

AUGUST 2020

MISSION STATEMENT

The purpose of the Guild shall be to foster the art of needlework and textile arts, encourage high standards of design and technique, and bring together members who will learn, share, teach, and participate, to the fullest extent, in this endeavor. This shall be considered the Mission of the Guild.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

It's been quite a spring and summer as we learn ways to deal with the Covid pandemic. Hopefully, you've had time to craft wonderful artwork. When we are back together, it will be fun to see what everyone has been working on.

As we prepare for the fall, there are many unknowns. As Deb stated in the June Newsletter, everyone has questions about returning to a "normal" NTGM. She was certainly right. Issues of safety are utmost in our planning.

Early in the process of dealing with the pandemic, Kathy Bricker coined the phrase, "*fluid and flexible*". Keeping this in mind, our team of officers, coordinators and committee members have been busy planning creative and safe ways to provide programs, workshops, activities, excursions, and access to the library and flea market, plus studying possibilities of online ZOOM gatherings (below you will read messages from some of the members who have been instrumental in this planning). But even with imaginative planning, we are dealing with ever-changing restrictions. We know you will be understanding as we work through a year no one ever anticipated.

Good communication is especially important. We want to ensure that our members have the information they need and opportunities for input. Sharon McKenna (sharonmck.ntgm@gmail.com) is dedicated to providing us with newsletters, announcements, surveys, and on-line voting with the goal of keeping the line of communication going in both directions. Susan McCarty, our recording secretary, will be posting highlights of both our Board and membership meetings in the newsletters.

Our website is another great tool to communicate to members and the public, and we are looking at several ways to improve and expand our website. If we need to cancel a meeting or event at the last minute, for any reason, cancellations and changes can be posted quickly. One idea is to add a members' only page with information that is password protected. However, we have discovered that these improvements may require starting from scratch. Carol Buszek is researching the possibility of creating a new website. Members with website experience who would like to have input can contact Carol at clg@wideopenwest.com.

We are fortunate that the Guild is in a good place financially as we deal with this pandemic. We can credit our past President Deb Gash and Treasurer Joan Koelsch for their careful management of our funds. As we go through this year, we will maintain fiscal responsibility. We appreciate all who have paid their dues and registered for workshops. If you have not, now is a good time to send your dues to Susan Van Dusen and workshop registrations to Barbara Skimin. Workshops are filling up and some classes have wait lists.

Because of the cancellation of our spring meetings, the Board was unable to present needed bylaws changes to the membership for a vote. The Board has met, reviewed the bylaw revisions and added additional changes to streamline decision making and open avenues for communication and transparency. Once the bylaw revisions are approved by the current Board, the membership will receive an electronic copy of the proposed bylaws and will be asked to approve them. We chose to use online voting to be as inclusive as possible.

We are working on several levels to make sure NTGM remains viable during this pandemic. I feel privileged, as president, to be working with such an amazing team. We will get through this. I look forward to when we return to "normal". If you have questions or concerns, please contact me at tvoigt03@gmail.com or any officer or coordinator.

Terrie Voigt





NOTES from the PROGRAM COMMITTEE

As we prepare for our first meeting of the (temporary!!) "COVID era", we want to give everyone a look at our plans for the choreography of the day. Many ideas and scenarios have been discussed by the program committee and the Board and, with the valuable input and comments from the survey you responded to, we have come up with a plan that we are comfortable with. Take a look and feel free to offer more suggestions and comments. Our motto is *Fluid & Flexible!*

September's full-day meeting will be our inaugural **outdoor** meeting. ** We are asking you to bring lawn chairs and an umbrella for sun, if needed. Tammy at *Brightly Twisted* may be bringing a tent for us to use as well. We ask that you bring your own beverage, snacks or lunch and a **face mask**. We will be on the church lawn for our first business meeting with your new Board, followed by an exciting program with *Brightly Twisted*.

**For those who are not yet comfortable going out, Mary Kaye will be setting up a Zoom connection that you can join for the meeting and presentation. Wendy Shepherd plans to Zoom in to talk about her plans for the October lecture and workshop as well.

St. Stephen's has put together guidelines in accordance with current State regulations for use of the church hall and we have tailored our routine to be in compliance. The number of people allowed in the building will be limited. **Masks are required inside the building.** We will arrange 'show & tell' along the window wall on long tables. Please bring no more than 2 items that can fit open on the tabletop. Bring a note identifying and describing your work. We will have one person viewing per table. Library will be set up along the opposite long wall or in the side room, depending on the church and the librarian's plans; these will be discussed separately and updated as we go along. Flea Market will also be held at Sue Baeten's discretion. *Brightly Twisted* plans to have items for sale at the front of the room or in their tent.

Our original focus for our September meeting was "Get To Know NTGM" - an opportunity to meet your new Board, catch up with friends and meet new ones, and learn about or reacquaint ourselves with some of our unique offerings as one of Michigan's longest running Guilds.

To facilitate that, we will have round tables set up in the hall assigned to each Special Interest Group (KnitWits, Artful Quilters, beading). Representative(s) from each group will be available to answer questions and show work. Some samples of your group's activities and some written information about meetings will be displayed. If you would like to represent your group at your table, please let me know via email. **Masks will be required.** There will be hand sanitizer at each table and visitors to each table will be limited to one at a time. If you have printed info that you would like to hand out (meeting info, member list, upcoming projects), please email it to me at kwoz1@me.com. I will have packets of all group info at each table.

I am confident that with everyone's cooperation and enthusiasm, we can begin our new Guild year with eager anticipation of good things to come. At least it will be memorable!!

~ Kathy Bricker

WE MISS YOU

Hi Everyone!

We currently have 47 paid members and a full line of activities scheduled through the year that we want you to be able to participate in. There has been much discussion and planning to ensure we have through safety measures in place and alternate communication and meeting possibilities online, if needed.

If you haven't renewed yet, I hope that you will mail your membership check to me (\$40 payable to NTGM):

Susan Van Dusen
53652 Buckingham Court
Shelby Township, MI 48316

(or you can renew at the Fall meeting)

I look forward to our Fall meeting with anticipation and I look forward to seeing you all - I've missed this group!

~ Susan

Creativity requires
the Courage
to let go of certainties.

~ Erich Fromm



Many thanks to Deb Gash and Audrey Robinson for their dedicated work, month after month, year after year. The library has a wealth of over 900 books and DVD's - a truly an exceptional collection for the use of our members. Janice Novachcoff, Joan Koelsch, and I are grateful to be part of the library committee and look forward to serving in this position.

In the past, the library collection has been inventoried every August. We plan to continue this process and will inventory the library items as soon as we are able to do so.

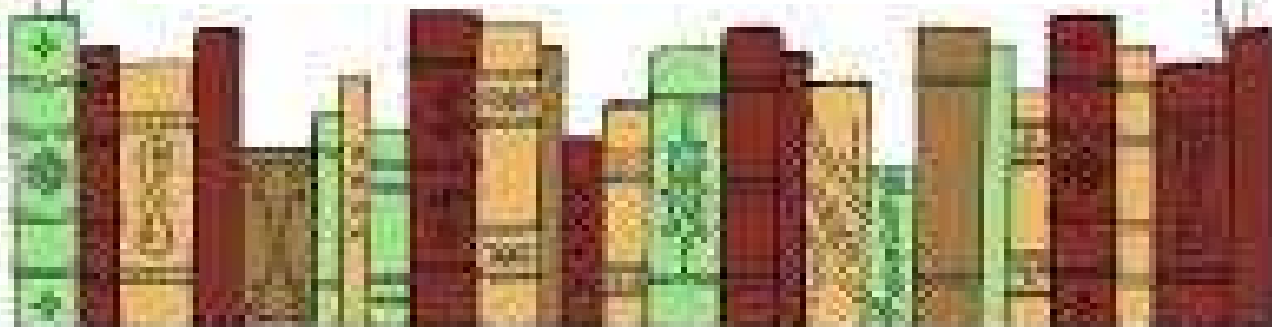
Public libraries are quarantining books for 72 hours and since we will be following the same protocol, books will not be available for check-out until the next membership meeting after they have been returned.

Members who wish to browse the books will need to wear a mask, wear disposable gloves (which we will have on hand), and practice social distancing. We are still working out the details to effectively accomplish this aspect of the procedure. When the safety protocols and best practices change, we will continue to update.

The last several months have been interesting. These are different times, necessitating changes to the way we use the library safely. Though it may be a daunting task, I'm sure we can be flexible and go with the flow.

Janice, Joan, and I look forward to the upcoming year!

~ Linda Poterek





EXCURSION TIME!!

Our Excursions will look different for a while as we learn to navigate the restrictions and guidelines in place to combat and control this new challenge. Right now, we are seeing galleries and museums begin to open slowly to welcome us back – allowing us to immerse ourselves in the art that feeds and inspires us. The Scarab Club in Detroit is one of those galleries. They have just mounted a delayed exhibit called “Uncommon Threads”, a juried exhibition of contemporary fiber arts, which includes work of many artists we know and many we want to know! (Tease: someone we like to spend time with at her lovely home won first place and hopes to join us there!) The gallery is open Wednesday-Sunday, 12-5. They have established guidelines for distancing, **masks are required; you will also be asked to fill out a health form.** The lower and upper galleries (upstairs is amazing!) are open, as is the beautiful garden. So let’s dip our toes in.....

For those who feel comfortable joining in, let’s meet Friday, August 14 at 12:30. The Scarab Club is located at 217 Farnsworth, just across the street from the DIA. Free parking is available on the Farnsworth side of the building. I usually recommend car-pooling, but that might not be wise unless you have already established a ‘travel bubble’. We will enter the building through the Farnsworth entrance and exit at the side - there are stairs to the second floor. There is no charge. This will be a good dry run for us to prepare for our September meeting and future excursions.

So, if you can come along, please email me at kwoz1@me.com so I can let them know how many to expect. If you are not ready to venture out just yet, please go to the Scarab Club website - scarabclub.org. Under the Visual Arts tab, go to ‘Online Exhibitions’. There will be both a virtual exhibition and a Gallery Talk with the curator. Either way, you win!

Hope to see you there, Friday, August 14 at 12:30! I’m excited!!



ZOOM!

I was asked to organize the use of *ZOOM* for NTGM and working with Joan Koelsch, we have purchased an appropriate *ZOOM* account for the use of the membership. I have been learning as much as I can about holding *ZOOM* meetings and what may work for the general membership and all our Special Interest Groups. The Board has already done some experimentation with the platform, and the Board, Program Committee and some of the Special Interest Groups will continue to try it out in the fall. Depending on where we are come September, we might be meeting outdoors at the Church, meeting indoors at the church with a Zoom option, or relying totally on *ZOOM* for all of our meetings. I have been looking at how other Guilds, groups and clubs have been holding *ZOOM* meetings and I think we can do it. It might be rocky at first, but we will all get the hang of it and will be able to stay connected as a Guild. In addition, for those of you that might be out of town during meetings, *ZOOM* will be a great option to still be connected.

I have stepped away from the Program Committee and will be taking care of Zoom and Facebook. If you have any ideas on either, please send them my way. My contact information is in the directory.

~ Mary Kaye Aukee

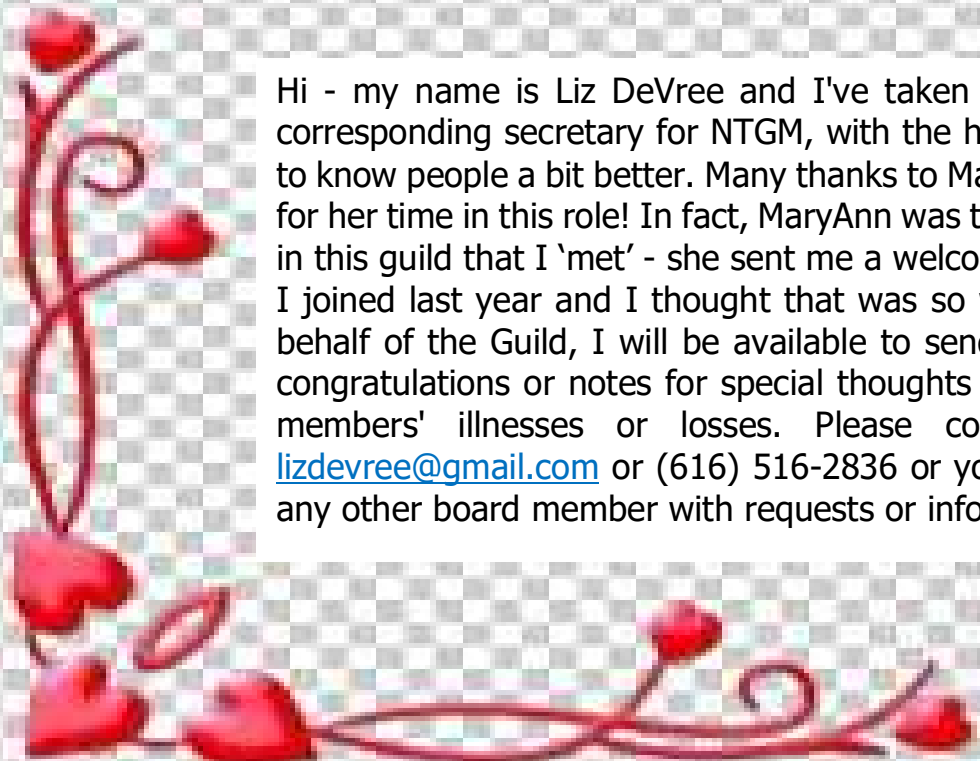
NTGM.org

Have you been to our website lately? Did it look out-of-date? We are working on it and YOU are invited to help.

As you read in the President's note, we want our site to reflect the most current information possible about our Guild. This includes any changes to the meeting days, times, location - and of course any last-minute cancellations – for all groups. I am working with the same website designer we have had for the last four years to be sure the platform is able to accommodate all the information you are used to seeing there. In addition, we want it to be more user-friendly so that information can be easily updated by designated members.

If you have comments about what you would like to see included on the website, please contact me by email at clg@wideopenwest.com. I will organize all the suggestions I receive and make them available to the Board and the membership before any decisions are made. And if you have experience managing a website and would like to help with ours, we would be happy to include you.

~ Carol Gardner Buszek



Hi - my name is Liz DeVree and I've taken on the job of corresponding secretary for NTGM, with the hope of getting to know people a bit better. Many thanks to Mary Ann Sherry for her time in this role! In fact, MaryAnn was the first person in this guild that I 'met' - she sent me a welcome note when I joined last year and I thought that was so wonderful! On behalf of the Guild, I will be available to send out cards of congratulations or notes for special thoughts in the case of members' illnesses or losses. Please contact me at lizdevree@gmail.com or (616) 516-2836 or you can contact any other board member with requests or information.