

MARIN NEEDLE ARTS GUILD INVITES NEW “JUNIOR” MEMBERS

The *Marin Needle Arts Guild* has announced that they will begin providing the opportunity for Junior Memberships in the Guild. In response to increased interest in participation amongst young people of many ages, the Guild will have three sections of youth members – grade school, middle school and high school age students will be able to join the Guild beginning in 2009. They will enjoy the same benefits as existing members but will have additional opportunities for workshops, open studios, social events and community service.

Many of the events specifically scheduled for junior members will be held at *doodlebug* in San Anselmo, already a popular site for knitting and sewing classes for young people and adults, though there will also be additional events held at Aldersgate Church in San Rafael and at the Marin Art & Garden Center. Among the workshops will be “Beginning Sewing”, “Learn to Knit”, “What to Knit When You Have Enough Scarves”, “Design & Sew Your Own Ugly Doll”, a variety of workshops on “Wearable Art”, “Button Bracelets”, “Beading 101” “Fashion Design” and lots more. As specific interest is shown, additional areas will be explored which could include weaving, dying yarn, spinning, felting, crochet, embroidery, doll-making, needlepoint, and even making rugs.

Community service will also be an important focus for youth members of the Guild who will be encouraged to participate in the creation and distribution of needle art projects which will be appreciated by seniors, veterans and other groups identified by the youth membership as recipients of their work.

Finally, there will be opportunities for youth members to help provide education to their peers as part of the Guild’s mission to share talent and expertise to benefit the needle arts in general and to expand the community of participants in these activities which satisfy both functional and aesthetic needs.

Membership dues for Youth members will be \$15 per year. Some scholarship memberships will be available for those who are otherwise unable to participate. Membership benefits include free participation in general meetings and open studios, significant savings on workshop fees and regular discounts at many merchants and venues in the Bay Area.

At this time *Marin Needle Arts Guild* is forming a Youth Advisory Council to help refine the schedule of events and benefits available for this new group of members. They welcome participation from young people currently in school in Marin County. As a first step you can complete the attached questionnaire and indicate your interest at the level you deem appropriate.

Marin Needle Arts Guild

Grade School Division ***** Middle School Division ***** High School Division ***

_____ SIGN ME UP NOW. My \$15 membership dues are enclosed. Please send me a schedule of activities!!

_____ YES – I’d like to participate in the formation of an expanded category of membership in the **Marin Needle Arts Guild!**

_____ YES – although I’m not interested in planning I would love to receive information on joining the **Marin Needle Arts Guild!**

_____ I am not interested in joining at this time but would like to continue receiving information about the **Marin Needle Arts Guild!**

My name is _____
You can contact me via email at _____
Address _____
Phone _____
My School is _____
I am in Grade _____
I am a parent who is interested in helping organize this new program _____

I am interested in:

Knitting __ Crochet __ Sewing __
Fashion Design __ Felting __ Beading __
Quilting __ Embroidery __ Doll-making _____
Other _____

Please return this form to:

Marin Needle Arts Guild
P.O Box 6015
San Rafael, CA 94903
www.mnag.org

Or drop by at
doodlebug
641 San Anselmo Avenue
San Anselmo, CA 94960
www.doodlebugmarin.com

Thanks for your interest!!!!

The **Marin Needle Arts Guild** was formed for the purpose of educating and promoting the highest standards of technique and design in the Needle Arts.

The Guild, a non-profit membership organization, brings together quilters, needle artists and fiber artists. Membership is open to anyone who has an interest in the Needle Arts. Current members include educators and award-winning crafts-people, as well as many enthusiastic amateurs who enjoy learning new skills, sharing ideas and enjoying the company of fellow enthusiasts.

Special Interest Groups within the guild are quilting, stitchery, wearable Art, beading, teddy bears, knitting and hand applique. Besides providing opportunities for these groups to develop their skills, there are many chances for them to teach those who are interested in learning something new.

Our goal, in fact, is to promote the Needle Arts through education. This year, 2008, we are concentrating our efforts on helping new members learn a variety of skills. There will be workshop classes the 3rd Saturday of most months. Members are always available to help anyone interested in learning a new skill, or improving their techniques. Beginners are encouraged to come join us for a fun filled day of learning and productivity. We also invite members to bring guests who may enjoy a particular event.

We are committed to community service and there are always outreach projects to work on, a few examples include:

- Quilts to be donated to the community
- Activity Blankets to make for hospitals
- Knitted scarves for the Veterans
- Quilts being created and sent to returning Veterans
- Socks & Mittens for children to have in the winter months.

Each year we work together to produce an "Opportunity Quilt" and to sell raffle tickets for the chance to win this stunning quilt.

Proceeds from the Opportunity Quilt Drawing help provide education for the membership and community at large and, in addition, provide grants and scholarship to schools and individuals

interested in promoting the Needle Arts.

The Guild enjoys a strong record of philanthropy and leadership in the community and has donated countless quilts and wearable items to area charitable organizations, hospitals and patients.

Beginning in 2009, the Marin Needle Arts Guild will initiate a new division to include young people in the activities and benefits of the Guild. Focusing on social, educational and community service activities, some programs will be held independently while some will be in conjunction with overall guild programs. They will be held at doodlebug, the Marin Art & Garden Center, Aldersgate Church and at possibly at schools as the program evolves. More information on this new organization is available at www.doodlebugmarin.com or www.mnag.org. The guild is actively looking for young people who are interested in guiding the formation and planning for the Junior Guild and welcomes input from parents and teachers as well.

MNAG Meetings are held at the Social Hall at the Aldersgate Methodist Church, One Wellbrock Heights, San Rafael, California. Additional meetings are held at *doodlebug* in San Anselmo and occasionally at other locations.

Special Interest Group meets throughout the year setting their own meeting days and times.

The Guild schedules workshops, seminars and field trips throughout the year for its members.

To receive membership information send a SASE to:
Membership
Marin Needle Arts Guild
P.O. Box 6015
San Rafael, CA 94903

**Or stop by doodlebug to join and immediately
begin receiving a 10% discount on all of your
needle art supplies!**

