



Fiber News & Updates

March 2018 Vol. 8, Issue 7

Valley Fiber Art Guild ~ www.valleyfiberartguild.org

Looking Ahead ~

Tues, Mar 6: General Meeting

“Recycled Garments” with Karen Lukacs

Tues, Apr 3: General Meeting

Election / Stash Sale / Brown Bag Lunch

Tues, May 1: General Meeting

“Objects from Folded Paper”
Guild Members Make and Take

June - August:

Summer break



General meetings are held the first Tuesday of the month, September – May

10am at:

*Good Shepherd United
Church of Christ
17750 S. La Cañada Drive
Sahuarita, AZ*

Membership \$20/year
Guest fee \$2/meeting

www.valleyfiberartguild.org

President’s Message ~



Well, I think my rain dance did it — we got enough refreshing rain to make our plants and wildlife happy!! We should be experiencing an incomparable spring with flowers blooming prodigiously. The colors will be a wonderful incentive and inspiration to each of us. Our March program presenter, Karen Lukacs, will also provide inspiration with her talk on Recycled Garments — up cycling and transforming those treasures we keep thinking we’d like to do something with, but what? I’m sure Karen will help us generate new ideas!!

Also, don’t forget to start cleaning out your closets and storage areas! April is our Member’s Stash Sale!! Start gathering up all those yarns and items you no longer need and bring them to the April meeting — someone else may absolutely love them and buy them for their stash!!

I hope you were able to be a part of the 30th Anniversary Celebration. It was very special! Thank you to the committee which did a super job in reaching out to former members, in creating a such a memorable video, in displaying historic photos — and for creating a fabulous luncheon. And thank you to all the study groups for making our memorable bookmarks and for the great array of fiber creations you put on display. Kudos to everyone!

If during the luncheon, you missed signing the “Memory Book,” (which will be kept with our historic records). I will have it available for you at the Welcome Table. Please take a minute to sign and/or write your thoughts/memories.

See you at the meeting,

Marie

*Photo on right:
Christie Furber and tablemates show off
the handmade bookmarks they received
at the Celebration Luncheon.*

Image courtesy of Sue Rock





~ March Program ~

“Recycled Garments” with Karen Lukacs

Karen Lukacs, an Eco Fashion Textile Designer from Tucson will be our speaker. Karen will share with us her journey in upcycling and transforming reclaimed materials into sustainable fashion. Using traditional handcraft techniques, Karen creates one-of-a-kind bags, fashion and accessories for the home.

Per Guild Policy Guest Fee is \$2/meeting

LIBRARY NEWS

LAST CHANCE TO CHECK OUT BOOKS FOR THE 2017-2018 YEAR!

March is the last month we will have the library available at the meeting to check out books. So, if there is anything in particular you've been thinking about checking out let me know and I will bring it to the meeting. And, ALL library materials must be returned at the April meeting.

Also a big REMINDER to those that have items checked out. There are many, many books that are overdue. These need to be returned at the March meeting!!

It has been a good year for the library. Each year more materials are being checked out, which is great.

Linda Verbiscar, Librarian
verbiscarjl@yahoo.com

Wanted!

Our *Make and Take* activity at the May meeting will be, “Objects from Folded Paper” ---- but first we need to collect the paper we will be folding!

Pages from colorful magazines will do – and if you have any fun, colorful magazines to donate, just bring them to the next couple of meetings. The more the merrier!

Please give your donated magazines to: **Marge Lind**

Smocking Study Group Update:

Reba Ashmore has announced that beginning in March, the Smocking Study Group will be taking a break from holding regular meetings.

Membership Renewal Reminder!

Yes, it is *early*, but it's never too late for a reminder that your Guild membership for the 2018-2019 year will be due at the May meeting.

Annual membership is \$25.00





THE CELEBRATION CONTINUES!



All images courtesy of Sue Rock

Loved the punch – and want the recipe? Here it is:

Ann Bont's Punch Recipe

- 1 large can (46 oz.) pineapple juice
- 1/2 large can (46 oz.) apricot nectar or mango nectar
- 2 liters ginger ale



Loved the 'Journal of Memories' -- but didn't get a chance to sign it?

If you didn't get to add your name and a special guild memory into the journal that was circulated at the Celebration Luncheon, it will be at the Membership table at the March meeting.

Loved the VIDEO – and want to see it again?

By special arrangement, the celebration video is available to all our members for online viewing through March 31st. Please follow these two simple steps:

1. Send Dagmar Munn an email at dagmunn1@gmail.com with the words, "request video link" along with your name.
2. You will then receive an email from Dropbox (where we've stored the video in the cloud) and all you do is click the link and hit the PLAY button for the video.

Note: If you have never used Dropbox before, it will ask you to enter your name, email and create a password. It is a free service. This will give you secure access to view our video as many times as you want – through March 31st.

Your link is tied to your email address and cannot be shared with others. If a family member or friend wants to view the video, have them go through Steps 1 & 2 above.

If you have any problems accessing Dropbox, please let Dagmar know!





All Images courtesy of Sue Rock

Loved learning about our guild's history – and want to read it again?
President Marie Gile's wonderful presentation of our guild's history can be found on page 5 of this newsletter. It is a permanent part of our February 6th meeting minutes and will also be added to the notebook archiving our guild's history.



**VFA Guild General Meeting
February 6, 2018****OFFICERS****President** – Marie Gile**Vice President** – Julienne Valentine**Secretary** - Sue Durling**Treasurer** – Ann Pyper

mgile117@gmail.com

juliennevalentine@gmail.com

sue@sdurling.com

pyperann52@gmail.com

No business meeting was held at the February 6, 2018 meeting, when the Guild celebrated its 30th anniversary with a special program featuring a remarkable 45-minute video edited by Dagmar Munn. The video showed interviews with past and present members who were members before the guild became Valley Fiber Art Guild. Some of those early members were present and honored. The program was followed by a luncheon attended by more than 90 current members and guests. The printed program is made a part of these minutes.

Marie Gile presented the following history of the Guild:

In 1988, a small group of eight weavers and spinners, under the initiating leadership of Shelby and wife Zoe Adams, began meeting in each other's homes. Meg Alstaetter hosted the first meeting, and helped Shelby organize the guild. Shelby was the weaver and Zoey the spinner. Zoe Marie Adams had many talents in fiber arts, but as a spinner, she was a master. As attested by members at the time of her death in 2003, she was well loved by the guild as a kind, giving mentor, always willing to help others and share her knowledge. Shelby was the first president and remained so until moving to Sun City. Another of Shelby's initiatives was the *Fibers Through Time* state conference series. Shelby had been a founding member of Tucson's fiber art guild. When he and Zoey moved to Green Valley, they met Meg through her teaching weaving at Green Valley Recreation. As a guild member, Meg gave much of her time to help teach weaving to others. We have a poem written by her about learning to weave. It's in our History Album and entitled "Ode to Kate". I'm surmising that Kate taught Meg to weave in Mt. Pleasant, Michigan.

These early guild members decided to call themselves The Green Valley Weavers and Spinners Guild (GVWS for short!). There were no dues or records kept at this time. As Shelby said on one occasion: "We are a congenial group of all ages interested in all fiber crafts. We are more concerned with sharing skills than in Roberts' Rules of Order. We have no dues or minutes. We do have practical, educational programs of interest to beginner or expert fiber people."

By the early 2000s, membership in GVWS was expanding and meetings were now held in the Conference Room at the Bank of America rather than in homes. From your program, you will see the various changes in meeting places and guild organization, but it has always been the enthusiasm, dedication and leadership of members that keep our guild vibrant. After Shelby's move to the Phoenix area, Doug Pope led the guild as president. When Cyndi Sorenson joined in 2004, dues were \$1.00 a year, and were used to pay the annual fee for membership in the state federation of guilds. Ina Huggenvik worked closely with Doug to provide programs and educational projects for the membership, and she then became president in 2006, followed by Cyndi Sorenson from 2008-2010. During Ina's presidency, she instituted a program chairperson and treasurer Cyndi served as program chair and Donna Allen as Treasurer. Programs were given by presenters such as Debbi Brunner and other Tucson members focused in fiber art. Everyone was happy to share their area of interest and membership grew from about 14 members to over 20. Due to the membership growth, under Cyndi's leadership, the guild again moved to a larger conference room at the Friends-In-Deed in Green Valley, also expanding the meeting time from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. Membership grew close to fifty members.

To further promote its presence in the community, Outreach programs were developed under the leadership of Alice Prall that were very successful. And growth continued through publicity developed by Dagmar Munn. During Cyndi's presidency, our Library was established.

Under Marge Lind's presidency the following year, 2011, the guild moved its meeting place again to its current meeting location at the Good Shepherd United Church of Christ in Sahuarita. The guild now had a membership of one hundred!

As membership interests had expanded into all forms of fiber art at this time, a vote was taken at the April 2011 General

(page 2 - General Meeting Minutes)

Meeting to change the guild name to Valley Fiber Art Guild. Also at this meeting, the membership voted on and approved the Bylaws. The first three study groups were: weaving, spinning and kumihimo. Cyndi Sorenson headed the weaving and most likely the spinning study groups, while Linda Germain began the kumihimo group, and the felting study group after that. As has evolved through the years, new groups are begun as an interest is expressed in that fiber medium.

Through time, our members have been unselfish leaders. Just a few more examples....

Debbi Brunner developed and created a statewide fiber guild for fiber-producing ranchers and fiber folks during the mid to late 2000s. Meetings were held throughout the state. The organization held an annual fiber event at the Amado Territory property for a few years. Workshops were available as well as “make and take” offerings. GVWS supported the event by having an outreach exhibit tent. About 500 – 600 visitors attended each year. Ranchers and fiber artists had booths. The Tucson guild also supported the event with a booth. Debbi was the first newsletter editor, which she developed with the Board. It’s goal was meant to keep our ever growing membership informed of all the guild happenings, and was emailed to all members with the exception of a few that did not have access to email. Prior to the newsletter, Cyndi Sorenson wrote a monthly letter to provide members with “what’s happening”, and Marge Lind followed her example with a similar letter.

Linda Germain Pearce, who joined in 2008, worked very closely with the president and board in creating the treasury accounting system. She also designed the first guild logo and did the research for the first Ways and Means project for fund raising. She shared her talent in knitting and kumihimo with workshops, mentoring and study group initiation. The guild worked collaboratively on National Weaving Day as an outreach to the community. Wilma Myers mentions that she, Jill Holbrook and Debbi Brunner chaired the event at the GV Library in 2008. Wilma, as head of Publicity, walked all over Green Valley and Sahuarita, distributing flyers about the event to local businesses. In 2010, Linda headed National Weaving Day at the Joyner Library. You might want to look at photos on our Memory Boards. On December 4th of that year, the local paper wrote about the charming display and Make and Take event in an article entitled “Fabulous - Free - Fast - Funky - Fun with Fibers”. It was a hit.

Five years ago, Wilma was asked to start a Knitting and Crochet group at the Sahuarita library. The group, which meets every second Saturday, has grown to more than 20. Wilma also started an outreach program in the local school districts, teaching Sprang. Alice Prall helped and continued the program, teaching various fiber crafts.

Since the early days of sharing fiber knowledge first by our members and members of the Tucson guild, we have grown by bringing in speakers and workshop leaders from around the state and nearby states, to national leaders. Tom Knisely was our first national speaker. And Anita Luvera Mayer came in the spring of 2015.

We have grown tremendously in so few years, and we all have different stories to tell about why we love our guild. We’d like to share with you some of those stories...

As we go forward, the Valley Fiber Art Guild will continue to honor the traditional techniques of handweavers and spinners — while giving our members the opportunity to explore the ever-evolving world of fiber art.

We hope you will enjoy the video we have prepared from interviews with past and present members who were members before our guild became Valley Fiber Art Guild. We are truly sorry if we have missed including anyone.

Marie Gile, President, Valley Fiber Art Guild

Respectfully submitted,
Sue Durling, Secretary
February 6, 2018

~ The Art of Giving (T.A.G.) ~

Hard to believe that it is March! It is also time to think about plans for this year's T.A.G. There are so many gifts that our local, low income elderly have enjoyed over the years. We have many suggestions listed on the Guild website as well as a handout sheet at the Membership table.

Essentially, gifts that are most appreciated are:

- 1) Useful -- dishcloths or dish towels; beaded glasses holders, totes for walkers, small purses, sleeves for water bottles, etc. I'm sure many of you can think of other items as well!
- 2) Warm-- lap blankets, scarves or cowls, shawls, fingerless gloves, hats, etc.
- 3) Fun -- a decorative basket, small jewelry items, felted flowers, teddy bears with a handmade scarf, etc.
- 4) For personal hygiene -- shampoo, soap, lotion, toothbrushes, brushes, etc.

You may want to re-gift some items that are in a closet or resurrect a scarf or shawl you made years ago, but don't wear. These make excellent gifts, cleans out your closets so you can make room for your new creations!

I will be happy to collect gifts in March or April and will have other members collect gifts in May.

Thank you all in advance for your support!
Jane Tempel



All Images courtesy of Sue Rock



~ Exhibits, Shows & Events ~

♥ = Denotes guild member participation

March 9 (9-4pm) & 10 (9-3pm), 2018 ♥
GVR Arts & Crafts Association – Arts & Crafts Festival
 West Center, Green Valley, AZ.

March 16, 17 & 18, 2018 (10-4pm) ♥
Tubac Center for the Arts Open Studio Weekend
 These studios are hosting groups of unique artists:

1. **The Van Helstrand Studio**
 4021 W. Calle Seis, Green Valley, AZ
For information, call 520-399-2703
2. **Stephanie Fischer Studio**
 546 N. Abrego Dr. Green Valley, AZ
For information, call 541-921-0759

~Study Groups ~

Study Groups are open to all current Guild members and meet September - April. Learn a new technique, share ideas and resources or just enjoy the friendship. For more information about a particular group or the current topic of the month please contact the group leader. *Note: "OTM" refers to "of the month."*

Basketry:

Meets the 1st Thursday, OTM, 9:00 a.m. – 12 noon.
Debbi Brunner – misseyb@gmail.com

Beading:

Meets the 2nd Thursday, OTM, 9:00 a.m., at Friends in Deed. Karen Gabriel – karengary115@gmail.com

Braided Rug:

Meets the 4th Monday, OTM. Gretchen Ramsey - grandmagretchen@cox.net or 393-6179

Clothing:

Meets the 4th Thursday, OTM, 9:30 a.m., at the Desert Hills Lutheran Church. Pam Smith - qcreekpam616@gmail.com or 775-770-4630.

Crochet:

Meets the 3rd Thursday, OTM, 9:30 a.m., at Sunrise Point Clubhouse. Kim Keast - kimkeastart@yahoo.com

Knitting:

Meets the 4th Tuesday, OTM, 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon, in members' homes. Kathe Alves – kathe.alves@icloud.com



Image courtesy of Sue Rock

Kumihimo:

Meets the 4th Wednesday, OTM, 1:00 – 3:00 p.m., at Friends in Deed. Diane Mikolyzk – dianemik46@gmail.com

Mixed Media Fiber:

Meets the 1st Monday, OTM, 9:30 a.m.-12:00 noon, at Good Shepherd Church. Debbi Brunner - misseyb@gmail.com

Smocking:

Note: The Smocking Study Group is currently on a break. Reba Ashmore – reba99@cox.net

Spinning:

Meets the 3rd Wednesday, OTM, 10:00 a.m., at Ann Pyper's home. Ann Pyper - pyperann52@gmail.com

Tapestry:

Note: No March meeting. Usually meets the 3rd Wednesday, OTM, 1:00 p.m.
Contact - April Boyson - gaboysen1@gmail.com
or phone: 720-545-7748, Lila Stoffel - lstoffel@loretel.net or phone: 520-648-0792.

Weaving:

Meets the 2nd Monday, OTM, 1:00 p.m., in members' homes. Cindy Wolf – pclobo2@gmail.com or phone: 608-343-6765.