

Fiber News & Updates

December 2020 Vol. 11, Issue 4
Valley Fiber Art Guild ~ www.valleyfiberartguild.org

~ Looking Ahead ~

December 2020

No meeting scheduled

2021

Mon. Jan. 18: General Meeting

Online: ZOOM

Kaye Miller

Mon. Feb. 15: General Meeting

Online: ZOOM

Topic will be announced soon

Mon. Mar. 15: General Meeting

Online: ZOOM

Vintage Knitting

Valley Fiber Art Guild



Membership \$25/year

www.valleyfiberartguild.org

~ President's Message ~

Happy Holidays Dear Members,

Can you believe - - it is December, 2020 is almost done and, we will soon be celebrating a brand-new year? Don't know about you, but this has been a very *looooooong* year for me!



I was reminiscing with a friend the other day about all the holiday stuff I've made over the years for friends, grandchildren and, family. One year I sprained my ankle really bad and I was *down for the count* for about a month. I'd picked up a felt Christmas ornament kit with sequins (10 ornaments) some weeks before, so I had plenty of time to complete them. Every time I hang them on my tree each year, I remember what solace it gave me having a handmade project to complete.

Then, when my first grandchild came along, I had to make one of those felt stockings with all the sequins (about a million pieces). Took me a long time, but it was a labor of love. Several years later, the second grandchild, of course, had to have the special stocking, so I bought another kit. I was about 10 years older and not so enthusiastic about completing the 1-million-piece stocking!

Three years later, the third grandchild appeared and knew I had to do another one for her. To say the least, my *ho-ho-ho* Christmas spirit had flown away and I really struggled to finish that one before the next Christmas. For Christmas I prayed that if I was fortunate to have another grandchild, maybe I would buy a stocking already completed and call it good! Would you believe since that time many years ago I haven't wanted to do anything with felt and sequins?

Ah, Christmas memories are so special, and, it taught me to push through and not give up and never buy a kit that you don't want to do again if you are expecting more grandchildren!

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(President's Message - - continued)

I am sure you have many memories of doing something handmade for someone at holiday time. May we all bless the people we made handmade presents for and bless ourselves for giving them a piece of our heart and hands.

Whatever your plans are for the holidays may you be in health and joy celebrating with whomever you choose to be with this year.

Miss you all and see you in 2021 (virtually) for our next VFAG cruise ship adventure.

Mrs. Santa hugs,
Peggy McGaughey

**Library Notes - Greetings from the Library!**

Warm winter greetings from the Library!

Yes, the library is virtually open for business! I have received a few returns, those of you with books still checked out may keep them until January or return to me at your convenience.

Protocols are still the same for wanting materials. Please place requests in the online library at: <https://www.librarycat.org/lib/VFAG> and contact me to arrange for pickup. Please return library material at my residence during the interim. I remain hopeful that sometime in the spring we may resume in-person meetings and usage of the library at the CPAC.

Stay safe and happy holidays!

Melanie Fritz, VFAG Librarian
to contact me directly: 602-697-2052,
alternatively: mlfritzi4@gmail.com

TAG (The Art of Giving)

Thanks to all who provided donations for TAG this year. We had a nice variety and many were large gifts, like lap blankets and shawls. We also had several masks donated and wonderful items for the kitchen. Finally, we had a very nice selection of toiletries.

I delivered the gifts to Valley Assistance on November 12th and the volunteers and Director were very pleased and thankful for these wonderful presents. I know it's been a difficult year for them and their clients. It's always fun to watch them go through the bags and boxes as they express their appreciation for your generosity.

Please know that you have made a difference in many lives.

THANK YOU!

Jane Tempel

Tamara Scott Anderson Video

November's speaker, Tamara Scott Anderson's, Zoom video will be available on our website by the middle of December.

Sorry for the delay, but we had a few technical problems to resolve before putting up on website. Thanks for your patience.





“Spin in the Park”

...or, who needs Zoom, anyway?



The Spinning Study Group held their November meeting at the Desert Meadows Park, (north end by the Butterfly garden ramadas) - - and “Spin in the Park” was born. They plan to return for their December meeting too. (see Study Group listings in this newsletter for details.

Photos: Ann Pyper and Melanie Fritz

OPEN HOUSE – HOLIDAY ART SALE

I invite you to my home for a Holiday Art Sale of screen printed & dyed silks; bamboo & rayon scarves & garments; jewelry; wall art (some collage & encaustic); woven gift items; and yarns/threads for knitting/weaving. Everything offered at 10% off, tax included.

New Date:

Tuesday, December 1st, from 9 AM to 3 PM

Address:

3581 S Via De La Gaviota ~ in Canoa Hills Town Homes - on the SW corner of Pato and Gaviota.

We will use COVID precautions, please wear a mask.

Treat yourself or buy a gift for a friend.

Cash, checks and VISA accepted.

Marie Gile - 520-305-4680; mgile117@gmail.com



Items from Marie's sale

Note This -

At our recent Zoom meeting, guild member Joan Ruane, shared that her articles on various topics in fiber art will be published in the following periodicals:

1. "Spinning Hemp Fibre." *The Wheel*, by Ashford Wheels & Looms (latest issue coming soon)
2. "Solar Dyeing." *Spin Off*, by Long Thread (Spring 2021)
3. "Spinning Off the Point of My E-Spinner." *PLY Magazine*, by Jacey Boggs Faulkner
4. Joan's latest DVD: *Spinning Hemp by Joan Ruane*. Stream or purchase through www.taprootvideo.com

Joan Ruane's website: www.cottonspinning.com

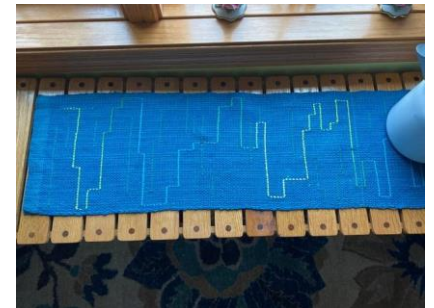
November Zoom Show and Tell..



*Sue Miller – rug hooking -
“work in progress”*



*Marge Lind – woven
towels*



*Audrey Wolter – rigid
heddle weavings with
raised textures – inspired
by: Liz Gipson at
www.yarnworker.com*



*Lea Gough – partially warped loom
and Patriotic Quilt strips partially
sewn together*



*Martha Fine –knitted
elephant, two knitted
gnomes & a kitty in a box*



Joan Ruane – “on the loom” and finished guest towels plus, spinning and dyeing in 2020



Peggy McGaughey - Tiny pocket purses & hand-dyed modules with embroidery stitches

Did You Know?

Video presentations featured by our speakers in our Zoom meetings can now be accessed on our website. *Just go to the home page, scroll to the bottom of Upcoming Programs and click “View Past Program Videos.” (your VFAG member password is required)*

VALLEY FIBER ARTS GUILD MEETING MINUTES

MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 2020

This meeting was held via Zoom

The meeting convened at 9:35 AM via Zoom with 24 members in attendance

Program Summary:

Today's guest speaker is the celebrated Tucson native, Tamara Scott Anderson. She earned her BA and MA in Fine Arts at the University of Arizona and has been a practicing artist for 30 years. Tamara discussed something we can all relate to: her passion for fabric and textures. She uses a variety of techniques including but certainly not limited to weaving, stitching and beading to create her 3-dimensional wall hangings. Tamara calls her work "A Journey of a Thousand Stitches" and invited us to join her on her journey by typing your email into the chat box.

Tamara's journey is frequently inspired by the textures most of us walk on by barely noticing. But Tamara's artist's eye is captivated by the dramatic texture of a pothole, the color and texture of a cactus, the sky, animals and insects. She translates what she sees into 3-dimensional structures based on a grid of hardware mesh. She enjoys using reclaimed, recycled, repurposed and rescued fabrics and elements such as an old wool blanket she dyed that may be woven into the metal mesh and further embellished with beads, ribbons and found objects to create abstract wall hangings. Her pieces are multi-layered and intricately embellished.

She currently has a walk-in Poppy Garden installation that will be open to the public during the 2020 Tucson Open Studio Tour, which is being held virtually. Tamara has an eight-minute video on her outdoor installations viewable on YouTube. Tamara believes that wall sculptures soften and warm up interiors. She takes commissions and creates pieces to complement the patron's environment. She is holding a fiber donation event December 5 and 6, at 4:30 pm, and an in-person gallery tour. See her website for updates and additional details.

Quite a few members posted questions about her very intriguing methods and materials. Tamara reminded us that it is important to write about your work. Doing so helps the artist to verbalize her mission and reveal her connection to each work of art being shown. Tamara is a member of the Fiber Artists of Southern Arizona.

Her exciting and inspiring presentation was followed by a 10-minute break. If you missed the presentation or just want to view it again it will be posted on our website.

Marge Lind made a motion to approve the minutes of last month's general meeting, Melanie seconded. The minutes were unanimously approved.

Committee News

Treasurer's Report: Ann Pyper, treasurer reported assets of \$9477.43

Program Committee: There will be no meeting in December but visit the website and read the newsletter to stay connected.

Study Groups:

Basketry: Debi Brunner reported that the longer Zoom meeting provided by the guild to all interested study groups permitted the basketry group to discuss techniques and hold a show & tell. The group meets the 1st Thursday at 9 am.

Continued on next page

Beading: Fran Lunney reported that the first Zoom meeting was held in November and was a show & tell. The next meeting, scheduled for December 10 at 10:30 will feature a demonstration.

Clothing: not currently meeting.

Crochet: not currently meeting.

Knitting: not currently meeting but still hopeful.

Kumihimo: Eileen reported the group's new name is "Zoomihimo" and the first meeting will be held on Nov. 25 at 1 pm.

Mixed Media: Marge Lind reported the group is working on preparing background materials. They meet on the third Thursday of the month.

Rigid Heddle: not currently meeting.

Rug Braiding: not currently meeting.

Spinning: Ann Pyper reported that this adventurous group will "Spin in the Park." Specifically, Desert Meadows Park on Nov 18 at 10 am. Bring your spinning wheel.

Tapestry: not currently meeting.

Weaving: Their next Zoom meeting is Dec 14 where members are invited to show their work. Future meetings will feature presentations.

TAG collection information will be presented in the newsletter. So, hang on to your donations for the time being.

Show & Tell:

Kaye Burrows has been knitting kilt socks. These are richly textured with a variety of cables and are 26" long before folding for the cuff. She uses cheviot yarn which is a breed native to Scotland. She is also quilting a T-shirt quilt for a favored granddaughter on the long-arm quilting machine at Quail Creek.

Sue Miller has made a braided rug inspired by William Morris. It features lush oversized orange lilies on an eggplant ground. Measuring 2 ½' x 7' this beautiful piece is destined to become a family heirloom.

Frances Lunney showed a deeply fringed shawl woven with a bamboo weft and a rayon warp in rust, black, copper and beige stripes. This is the perfect shawl to grace a holiday outfit. If only we all had someplace to go.

Marge Lind has been weaving towels in yellow, rust, blue and white. How can we get ourselves on her gift list?

Gretchen Ramsey braided a wool runner in blacks, greys and beige made partially of felted sweater strips. It measures 6'x2 ½'. Handmade objects such as this even when put to the use of a rug elevate the mundane to works of art.

Audrey Wolter is working on a series of weavings that feature raised textures.

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Leah Gough is beading and weaving a scarf with a hand-painted warp and strips of fabric in the weft. I am looking forward to seeing the finished product.

Joan Ruane has been busy writing articles for Ashford Looms on spinning hemp. Solar dying for Spin-Off Magazine and Electric Spinners for Ply Magazine. She also believes that writing about your work helps people connect.

Audrey Wolter is weaving rugs of churro wool with Liz Gipson's Weave-a Long, Liz Gipson is with the Yarn Worker's School.

Martha Fine is working on a series of 3-dimensional knitted toys.

Susan Miller is hooking a rug for the granddaughter who is intrigued by the moon. Sue's rug shows the phases of the moon. This little girl may just grow up to be the first woman on the moon. Go Girls! Sue has ties to donate to the guild. She suggests using the ties to transfer dye onto surfaces such as Easter eggs and wool strips.

This month's guest speaker and show and tell items featured many examples of the creativity of our members in repurposing, recycling and reusing.

Don't forget to submit your photos to Dagmar for inclusion in the newsletter.

Our next meeting will be January 18, 2021 at 9:30 am. What a joy to write 2021 – may it find all our members in good health.

The meeting was adjourned at 11:05

Respectfully Submitted,

Martha Fine, Secretary



***Meet Your Board Members for
2020 – 2021***

President, Peggy McGaughey
Vice-President, *vacant*
Secretary, Martha Fine
Treasurer, Ann Pyper
Federation, Donna Lambert
Programs, Marge Lind
Workshops, Debbi Brunner
Webmaster, Kay Burrows
Library, MizMelly Fritz
Equipment Loan, Donna Lambert
Membership, Pat Merritt
Newsletter, Dagmar Munn
Member-at-Large, Kaye Miller

Contact emails for our Board are available on the VFAG website:

<https://valleyfiberartguild.org/board-information>

~ Study Groups ~

Study Groups are open to all **current guild members**. Learn a new technique, share ideas and resources or just enjoy the friendship. **In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and national recommendations for social distancing, all in-person study group meetings have been suspended.** 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:

Holding meetings via Zoom on the 1st Thursday OTM at 9 AM, to share techniques, book reviews, and show and tell. Debbi Brunner – misseyb@gmail.com

Beading:

No meetings scheduled due to continued closure of Friends-in-Deed. Leader welcomes suggestions for restarting from interested members. Usually meets the 2nd Thursday OTM; 9:00 a.m. Karen Gabriel – karengary115@gmail.com

Braided Rug:

Instruction offered on an individual need to learn basis. If interested, please contact: Gretchen Ramsey - grandmagretchen@cox.net (393-6179)

Clothing:

Currently not holding meetings. Usually meets the 4th Thursday OTM; at 9:30 a.m. at Desert Hills Lutheran Church. Kristine Sells and Paula Sween are the co-leaders. Kristine Sells – cksells1961@gmail.com Paula Sween - sweenpaula@gmail.com

Crochet:

Meetings will resume in November. Usually meets the 3rd Thursday OTM at 9:30 a.m.; at Sunrise Point Clubhouse. Contact: Toni Prutch – portraitsbytoni@yahoo.com

Knitting:

Contact group leader for current meeting details. Usually meets the 1st Tuesday OTM; 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon, in members' homes. Sarah Price - sprice1013@yahoo.com

Kumihimo:

The Kumihimo Study Group will begin monthly Zoom calls starting on Jan 27th at 1pm (AZ time). An email will be sent 3 weeks before each meeting to identify the current project. We meet the 4th Wednesday OTM; 1:00 - 3:00pm. Co-leaders: Eileen Coyne and Judy Model. Group Contact / Communication Director: Diane Mikolyzk - dianemik46@gmail.com

Marudai:

Due to the continued closure of Friends-in-Deed, this group will suspend all in-person meetings until further notice. Usually meets the 1st Thursday OTM; 12:30-3:00pm at Friends in Deed. Pam Roederer - roederers@gmail.com

Mixed Media Fiber:

Holding monthly meetings on Zoom. Meets the 2nd Thursday OTM; 1:00 p.m. To join, contact co-leaders: Donna Lambert - DonnaDo3203@gmail.com and Elaine Cselenko - elaine52@yahoo.com

Rigid Heddle Weaving:

No meetings scheduled. Will defer making a decision until January. Meeting times changed to the 3rd Tuesday OTM; 1:00 – 3:00 p.m. Marilyn Wrucke - mwrucke2@gmail.com

Spinning:

NEW- "Spin in the Park" will be on December 16th (Wednesday) at the Desert Meadows Park (north end by the Butterfly garden ramadas) from 10:00 AM til 12:00 PM. Please contact group leader for current update on activities and plans. Usually meets the 3rd Wednesday OTM, 10:00 a.m.; Ann Pyper - pyperann52@gmail.com

Tapestry Weaving:

Currently not holding meetings. Looking at Zoom opportunities. Usually meets the 2nd Wednesday from 9:30 to 12:00 at Quail Creek Kino Center - - in the conference room. Contact Debra Brown - debrabrown15@icloud.com or Lila Stoffel - lstoffel@loretel.net (520-648-0792) or April Boysen - gaboysen1@gmail.com (720-545-7748).

Weaving:

Meeting monthly via Zoom. Usually meets the 2nd Monday OTM, 1:00 p.m., in the Conference Room of Quail Creek Kino Center. Cindy Wolf – pclobo2@gmail.com or phone: 608-343-6765.

Newsletter Editor:

Dagmar Munn dagmunn1@gmail.com