



Fiber News & Updates

May 2020 Vol. 10, Issue 9

Valley Fiber Art Guild ~ www.valleyfiberartguild.org

Looking Ahead ~

June – August:

*Summer Break – no meetings
scheduled*

Mon. Sept 7: General Meeting

Location: CPAC

Guild Member Show and Tell

Mon. Oct. 5: General Meeting

Location: CPAC

*BUTTONS, BUTTONS and
BUTTONS*

Mon. Nov.2: General Meeting

Location: CPAC

Fiber Artist Tamara Scott

Mon. Nov.2: General Meeting

Location: TBA

Holiday Event and Fund Raiser



Valley Fiber Art Guild

Membership \$25/year
Guest fee has been waived

www.valleyfiberartguild.org

President's Message ~

Hello my wonderful creative friends,

What a difference a day makes. One minute I think I do not have enough time to finish some projects I was working on and the next I have all the time in the world! I am sure all of you can relate during this trying time. But, thank heaven we have our fiber arts to keep us busy, inspired and challenged.



As you have already found out via emails and newsletter I have been elected as the new President for two years. I was so excited to begin my journey with all of you on May 1st. Unfortunately, that journey quickly fizzled out and now we are only meeting via newsletter.

My journey in fiber began about the age of 8 or 9 when my family went to Salt Lake City via car and my Grandmother taught me to crochet in the backseat. I have continued to knit and crochet since that time. I belonged to the Fiber Art Guild in Denver, CO for a few years. My true love has always been silk painting. There is an International Silk Painting Association that I joined in 1986. In the early 90's I started a chapter in Denver. I was President of that club for four years.

I sure hope you are using the amazing stuff online that is being offered. Found a few websites I thought you would enjoy seeing for fun: (*click on the links*)

www.knittingmuseum.com

<http://www.vam.ac.uk/exhibitions>

<http://www.metmuseum.org>

<https://fiberartnow.net/videos/>

I wish to thank Kathe for all her hard work these last two years, she is a tough act to follow and I hope I do fill her shoes in a creative way. Looking forward to working with the board to make VFAG everything you all want and desire.

'Art'tistically yours,

Peggy McGaughey

Stay healthy and well and I'm hoping to see all of you in September!

THE MASK BRIGADE!

What is it? What are they doing? And, who is involved?

Fran Lunney, coordinator of The Mask Brigade, fills us in on all the details!



What gave you the inspiration to start this project?

A friend in Idaho started making face masks and donating them to local groups and organizations. I was following her posts on Facebook. Through her, I was able to get some masks for the workers in Idaho Child Protection, where I used to be a manager. I found out that Santa Cruz Regional Hospital was looking for cloth face masks and I contacted their Director of Nursing Services.



With many of our Guild members joining you, how did you coordinate everyone's efforts?

Most of the coordination was done via email. Initially that included just Clothing Study Group members, but later a few others from the guild were added. I created a group email to make this easier. We shared various patterns, ideas, needs, updates. I also coordinated the purchase of some needed items, e.g. we got a huge order of elastic (which has become very scarce) from a vendor I knew. People dug into their stashes of fabric, thread, elastic, wire, etc. to create masks. We got some donated fabric from a few people in the guild and Jo-Ann's and, t-shirts for ties from the Animal League. A friend of a friend who saw my efforts on Facebook brought me a box of fabric. I handled lots of questions via email and phone. I set up a drop box for masks outside my studio and also put a big bin there for fabric that those making masks could access. I created a spreadsheet for tracking requests, donations, and masks on hand. With Eileen Coyne's help I created a handout to give with each mask.



Mask production in Linda Laird's sewing room

Where were the masks donated?

Santa Cruz Regional Hospital, Valley Assistance Services, Green Valley Food Banks #1 & #2, The Animal League of Green Valley, Sahuarita Food Bank, Friends in Deed, Green Valley Fire Department, Hands of a Friend, Continental School (for their meal distribution staff/volunteers) and Borderlands Produce POWWOW. (a grand total of 554 as of 4-20-2020)

What challenges did you encounter along the way and how did you resolve them?

Getting and keeping people motivated, keeping it interesting (trying different patterns and ways of doing things). Helping people with techniques, patterns etc. which had to be done primarily by phone (would have been much easier if we could have gotten together and had a demonstration and then assembly line).



Deputy Chief William Rowe receiving a 100-mask donation on 4/17/20



Fran Lunney delivers masks to Friends In Deed Operations Director Madeline Sperry. Photo: Ellen Sussman / Special to the Green Valley News

A sampling of thank you notes from mask recipients



Is it true that you alone made over 200 masks?

Actually, I've made 332 masks. Some were given to family, friends, and neighbors. I made 90 for Cathy's Sew and Vac (they were providing polypropylene fabric from hospitals to make masks). Of the VFAG donations, it looks like I've completed 188.

Is the project over now, or is it ongoing? Do you need more help?

Sure, we'd love more help. I think there is going to be a need for some time. I just heard that the shelter operated by Borderlands needs masks for adults and children and although we provided masks for Food Bank volunteers and staff, we'd like to provide some to their recipients. We could also use donations of fabric. Good quality cotton (think quilting cotton) is best. 1/4" elastic or elastic cord is also needed to make masks. It can be dropped in a bin in front of my studio.

What advice can you share for any of our members who want to do the same thing in their community?

Find out what is already going on in your community. Decide what your focus will be, ours was: medical providers and/or helping agencies, not masks for individuals. I would be happy to consult with anyone who may want to get involved in this effort, in Green Valley or elsewhere.

 Note: Fran created a PDF document with tips, patterns and resources for those who wish to participate or make their own masks. This document will be available on the VFAG website: www.valleyfiberartguild.org

Fran wishes to thank the following individuals who sewed, procured supplies, delivered masks and "spread the word" - - efforts that contributed to The Mask Brigade's overall success:

Sharon Laws, Eileen Coyne, Elaine Cselenko, Suki Thomsen, Peggy McGaughey, Linda Laird, Marge Lind, Sue Meese, Sue Leassner, Susan "Sudie" Durham, Pat Sutherland and Marie Gile.



When I first started making masks for my family and then friends on the block, I thought I was over then. But, no, then the masks became popular and necessary and Fran asked us to all participate 'for the war effort'. First mask took me about 1-1/2 hours to make and by the time I made my 50th I was down to about half an hour. It gives me a great sense of community to help everyone that has requested one. Thank you, sewers!

Peggy McGaughey

What a wonderful community project for our guild, especially during this quarantine time that we are all going through, giving us a goal and focus. Not enough can be said about Fran's leadership and encouragement. Everyone making masks was so helpful, offering suggestions on making all the various types of masks that we have made and sending photos of various stages of construction, as well as websites to find additional information. It was a rewarding experience being a part of this very special project during this very difficult time.

Marie Gile



It was great to have something to do to help others during this quarantine period! Thank you, Fran, for coordinating our efforts!

Sue Meese



What a pleasure and honor for me to have this opportunity to contribute masks to our tireless volunteer workers here in Green Valley. It is so heartwarming to give "something back" to our wonderful, exceptional volunteer community."

Susan "Sudie" Durham



Being a retired ICU nurse, I was at first skeptical of making surgical masks - just didn't seem appropriate. But with time, the need for homemade masks became very apparent and both my husband and I have embraced the creative process and the ability to give back to our community. Also, this project has helped us to maintain our sanity! Also want to acknowledge Fran and what an amazing job she has done in coordinating this mask brigade. Not only is she prolific in her mask making but her ability to coordinate, be a resource, juggle various issues (i.e. finding elastic resources, fabric, find resources that need donations, etc.), write up documents and keep her sense of humor is over the top admirable. THANK YOU, Fran!

Eileen and Terry Coyne



Though I am no longer a member, because I no longer have a home in Arizona, I still get some VFAG's emails. Fran's wonderful knowledge and enthusiasm has been shared with my Northern Michigan sewing friends -- so her effort has helped people way beyond Green Valley. Thank you, Fran and friends,

Sue Leassner

I have found that I can't get myself motivated to weave or do other creative projects. This has kept my mind occupied and is definitely sharpening my sewing skills which were really rusty. I do feel like I'm part of a bigger effort, which makes me feel good!

Marge Lind

Our family is blessed in many ways while other lives have been devastated. The mask making is a way to say "we care." Knowing we are making a difference is the only reward we need.

Sharon Laws

TAG (The Art of Giving)

We are living in difficult times. A lot of adjustments for all of us. I've always savored the rare days in Arizona when I HAD to stay at home and I could devote to a creative project.

I miss all our Guild and study group meetings; the comradeship, the inspiration that all the members share. I LOVE the show and tell. So much talent and creativity. I applaud the many members that have worked tirelessly making masks for the community. Alas I am not a good seamstress so I've resorted to donating fabric and T-shirts for the cause! I've been knitting for TAG and have produced a nice amount of goods for the end of the year to donate. I actually can see room in my closet where I keep my stash.

I hope this finds everyone safe and well. I look forward to the fall and seeing all of you. TAKE CARE.

Jane Tempel



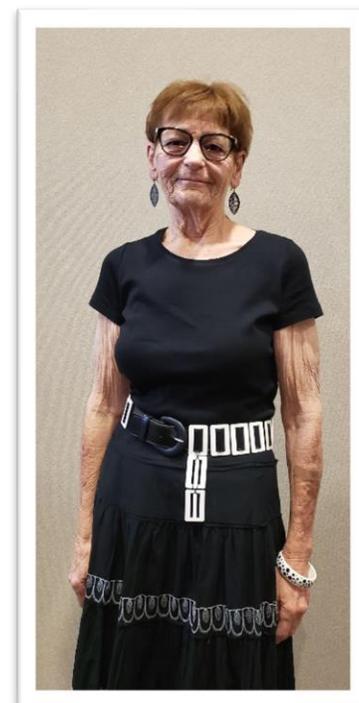
Clothing Study Group
Silk fabrics and garments from Jan King which Sudie shared with the group.



STUDY GROUPS: A VIRTUAL SHOW AND TELL



Clothing Study Group



Sharon Laws got a great deal at *SAS Fabrics*: two boxes of belt buckles for \$2.00 and issued a "Belt Buckle Challenge" to the clothing study group!

Peg McGaughey (above left) made a necklace, Gretchen Ramsey used buckles with ribbons on gift boxes (above center) and Sharon made a belt.

The **Mixed Media Study Group** is participating in a “Cigar Box Challenge” during this time of self-isolation. As we let our imaginations take flight, we are decorating cigar boxes and sharing the results via email. We're looking for fanciful, glitzy, or practical and... lots of WOW.



Above: Ann Pyper's completed project.
Below: a box by Debbi Brunner



Spinning Study Group



Ann Pyper: “I got all but one sheep fleece from last year washed and ready to card, even did some carding. Then my son showed up with 10 fleeces from this year's shearing, oh my, so far, it's all skirted and prepped for washing. It's super clean, white, crimped and beautiful. He brought Merino, BFL, Targhee and then some mixed breeds. While he was here, we did some carding together and blending on the hackle and board, he even took a spin at spinning. He was mesmerized!”



Elaine Cselenko: “I managed to spin a pound of dyed merino/silk; sort of a worsted weight. I'm planning on spinning 3 oz of silk very thin to ply it with.”



Melanie Fitz: “Here's some pics of a skein I spun a few months ago!”





One final question for Fran...

What are you doing with your scraps from all this mask sewing? You may want to hold onto them. I am not a quilter, but as I was getting ready to throw away some of my scraps, I was thinking how cool it would be to make a scrappy quilt out of fabrics used for the masks we have made and donated. Anyone interested in taking that on as a project? Maybe each person making masks could contribute a few squares. Just a thought when all this is finished.

Yesterday, I took a break from sewing masks. I did perform some “administrative duties” for the project that took up a good deal of time. I also cleaned my sewing machine and put in a new needle. The break from sewing was good for me and now I’m ready to go again.



Membership Renewal Reminder!

Time to RENEW Your Membership! Your \$25.00 annual membership for the upcoming 2020-21 year is due now.

A new membership form needs to accompany your payment. Download and print the FORM found on our website. Complete the form and follow directions to mail it to:

Patricia Merritt, Membership Chair

Alternately, you can wait to renew your membership in-person, at our first meeting in the fall.

Thank you!

Newsletter Editor:

Dagmar Munn dagmunn1@gmail.com