



Fiber News & Updates

November 2021 Vol. 12, Issue 3

Valley Fiber Art Guild ~ www.valleyfiberartguild.org

~ Looking Ahead ~

2021

Mon. Nov. 15: General Meeting

Online: ZOOM

Joan Ruane, "Fiber Journeys
in New Zealand"

December: No Meeting Scheduled

2022

Mon. Jan. 17: General Meeting

Location: TBA

Guild Study Group Program

Mon. Feb. 21: General Meeting

Location: TBA

Jane Herrick, "Mixed Media, Paper
and Fiber Construction"

Mon. Mar. 21: General Meeting

Location: TBA

Carolyn Webb, "Vintage Knitting"



Valley Fiber Art Guild



Membership \$25/year

www.valleyfiberartguild.org

~ President's Message ~

Hello fellow creators,

As we all are drifting in this endless sea of uncertainty, I came across something that inspired and calmed me with tranquility and beauty.



A friend suggested that I visit a site on YouTube. One day my curiosity got the best of me and clicked on the link. To my amazement I was mesmerized for the next 20-minutes as this cute-as-a-button young Japanese lady went about creating stuff without uttering a word. Now I know you all are wondering just how can one be mesmerized for 20-minutes with no talking going on. The reason why is that the scenery is so phenomenal as she floats along her creative journey in the vision of an angel. Everything is perfect. She throws down a piece of material onto a table and cuts it into a kimono without a pattern and sews it by hand without a even hair out of place! She actually paints each petal of her peach blossom headpiece with homemade paint! Then, with simplicity and grace she makes a wonderful lunch for her grandmother. Ahhh... the magic of video. *(video links provided below)*

Now, I know many of you don't know me well enough to know that when I am creating my studio (the bedroom) is a 'complete mess.' Fabric, sequins, yarn, ribbons, more fabric, threads, glue sticks, paper, and paint brushes are scattered on both my table and floor. Many boxes and containers hold my creative supplies, but they certainly don't look *photographic*-worthy. There is a saying that goes something like; *the sign of a creative mind is a messy studio*. Well, my Japanese lady proved *that* saying is not in her wheelhouse! I have always had visions of having the 'perfect' studio space with everything organized and in complete harmony and color coded. Ahh...a girl can dream. As I check out at Joann's, I am always tempted to buy those *Creative Studio* magazines on the nearby rack hoping my studio would look as fabulous as the ones in the pictures. Sorry to say, that hasn't happened in the 70 some years that I have been creating, so I'm pretty sure it isn't going to happen now.

(continued on page 2)

(President's message continued)

But wait...there is hope on the horizon. My daughter is flying in from Florida to visit me over the Christmas holiday and she said she'd help me organize my 'space' while she is here. She is a left-brain bookkeeper; I am so excited! Maybe at January's meeting I can show my before-and-after photos as my show and tell.

To sum up my earlier story, er, novel, each of us has a style and journey that is unique to us so let's all embrace what that is and celebrate that in our uncertain, messy or perfect lives right now. I know I will be a little more organized this coming 2022. Amen!

Peggy McGaughey
"Ghost Ship Captain Extraordinaire"

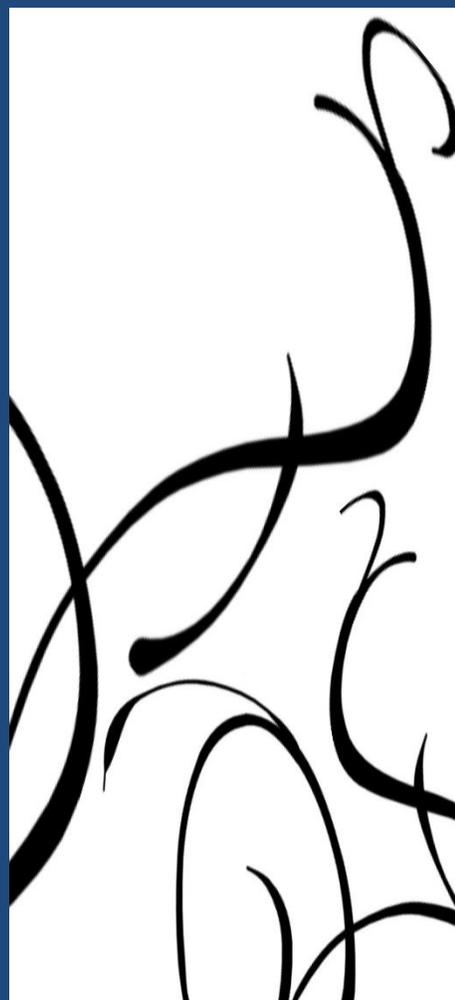
P.S. I highly recommend this YouTube channel:

[李子柒 Liziqi](#)

Liziqi is a traditional skilled acclaimed artist who shows the old ways of doing things in a magical way. I watched the link below and also the "Persimmon New Year Festival."

Enjoy!

[Make a peach blossom crown with silk flowers | 用绢花工艺做了套桃花发冠 · 带上爱人浪了一把春天 | Liziqi Channel - YouTube](#)



IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

"It is the expectation of the Valley Fiber Art Guild that all members attending guild in-person events are vaccinated and properly wearing a mask."

News from

Arizona Federation of Weavers & Spinners Guilds

<https://www.azfed.org/>

There will be a "Federation Guild Outreach Forum" on what the Federation can do regionally to make Guilds feel more a part of the organization. This will be held on Nov. 20, 2021 at 1:30 pm, AZ time, via Zoom. An invitation will go out to each Guild inviting their President, Program chair, Workshop chair and Representative to attend. Anyone else from their Guild may attend - - as a member of the Valley Fiber Art Guild you can attend this Zoom call. If you are interested, contact our president Peggy: peg-e-su.silk@msn.com or our AZ Fed representative Jol'ene: Jolene.northupstudio@gmail.com

November 15th – 9:30 a.m. (Arizona Time)

Fiber Down Under; Australia & New Zealand



Joan Ruane will be presenting a Power Point presentation about her travels and teaching in both Australia and New Zealand. From the wool in New Zealand to the cotton in Australia. She will be showing pieces in the New Zealand Creative Fibre National Exhibition in Rotorua in 2015 and her teaching tour in Australia in 2018 as well as the growing cotton industry there in Australia.

~ This meeting will be held online on Zoom ~

Tucson Quilt, Craft & Sewing Festival

November 4 - 6, 2021

Tucson, AZ - November 4 - 6, 2021

HOURS: 10 AM - 5 PM Thursday & Friday | 10 AM - 4 PM Saturday

ADMISSION: FREE

Coupon not required

Website: <https://quiltcraftsew.com/tucson.html>

SEWING | QUILTING | CRAFTS | NEEDLEARTS

MAKE 'N TAKES - FREE DEMOS | DAILY DOOR PRIZE DRAWINGS



3750 E. Irvington Road

Tucson, AZ 85714

DIRECTIONS | FREE PARKING

VALLEY FIBER ARTS GUILD
GENERAL MEETING SEPTEMBER 20, 2021

Meeting opened at 9:36 AM

The meeting began with our very own member, Debbi Brunner as our esteemed speaker. Debbi began to be interested in Japanese textiles quite a while ago. After making a purchase she would open the garment, wash dry and iron it. She began to notice that some of the garments had been very skillfully and artistically mended. Researching this phenomenon, she learned that this type of mending is called Boro. The word literally means rag in Japanese. During the Shogunate era, when Japan had closed itself off to the rest of the world textiles became very valuable. Hemp was the only fiber available to common people as silk was reserved for the ruling class. During this era textiles were so valuable that even aristocrats had to mend their precious garments. At this time there were more than 4000 rag merchants in Tokyo. Hippari, the jacket worn by workers was made of hemp and padded with fiber for warmth. The layers were held together with stitching, called Sashiko which means “little stab stitch”. Fabric was woven at 12”-15” wide just as it is today and sold in bundles of lengths to make a specific garment. Worn out garments and sleeping kimonos were patched from the back with self-fabric patches that closely match the area they patch with sashiko stitching.

Debbi found the book *Boro: Rags and Tatters From the Far North of Japan*, (2009), ISBN 10-4757215967 which is currently out of print. This book inspired her to compose collages of fabric with Boro using decorative stitching, and embellished with beads, leather and metal found objects. These are multi-layered pieces with hemp “batting”. The supplies she uses to compose her wall hangings are; hemp thread, 10/2 cotton thread, snips, Sashiko hand-sewing needles and a bone folder. Sewing implements are so highly regarded in Japan that twice a year a memorial is made for broken needles and pins. They are brought to a temple where prayers are said with tenderness and gratitude for these important implements. In the spirit of honoring the tools that permit us to create, Debbi makes beautiful needle cases that showcase Boro techniques.

To start a Boro project Debbi recommends starting with a Furoshiko bag that is folded and knotted to form a bag. Debbi has expanded her variety of Boro items to include placemats, shawls, jackets and wall-hangings. Most are made using a combination of Japanese fabrics, both new and vintage as well as fabrics from Joanne’s. She imagines where patches would be needed on a well-loved, worn-out item and sews Boro patches over those areas. Debbi considers these works in progress as more Boro patches can be added at any time during the life span of the item.

November

Show and Tell

Debbi
Brunner



Debbi
Brunner



Peggy
McGaughey

VALLEY FIBER ARTS GUILD
GENERAL MEETING (continued)

Two books that Debbi recommends are *Boro and Sashiko: Harmonious Imperfection*, this is a modern American spin on the ancient technique and *Japanese Country Quilting: Sashiko Patterns and Projects for Beginners* by Karen Kim Matsanuga.

The Boro technique is so versatile that Debbi has used it to make a checkerboard that becomes its own carrying case for stone checkers and “Boros” on paper to make book covers.

Fran Lunney showed us a shirt she patched using boro.

Debbi shared her resource list:

Shiboridragon.com - threads needles, fabric

Upcyclestitches.com - supplies and workshops

Etsy.com - several sashiko suppliers

Purlsoho.com - supplies

Kimonoboy.com vintage Boro clothing

EBay.com - vintage kimono fabrics

We are grateful to Debi for sharing her knowledge and passion for this intriguing technique with us and the enriching us with the added bonus of learning about textile traditions in a culture other than our own. The recording of this presentation will be available on our website.

NEW BUSINESS

Sharon Laws is selling off her legendary stash! Save the date – Oct 23 from 9-2 and she will be selling sashiko supplies.

The minutes for the September meeting were unanimously accepted as written.

Treasurer’s Report: April Boysen reported \$9728.44. Sixty-eight members have paid their dues. If you haven’t be sure to do so, so you don’t miss our programs and the camaraderie of your fellow members.

Committee Reports

Programs: Joan Ruane will be taking us vicariously through her travels as a cotton spinner in Australia and New Zealand in November.

Workshops: The first scheduled workshop is in 2022. (sigh)But during the January general meeting information on on-line opportunities will be shared.

STUDY GROUPS

Baskets- meeting via Zoom

Beading – meets at Friends in Deed. They are working on bead embroidered cabochons.

Clothing – is trying to get going with outdoor meetings

Martha
Fine



Fran
Lunney



Fran
Lunney



VALLEY FIBER ARTS GUILD
GENERAL MEETING (Continued)

Knitting – due to the tragic loss of Kay Burrow’s husband, the knitting group has not yet confirmed the location of the next scheduled meeting on October 26, it may be held at Viola Jo’s in Tubac. Contact Eileen Coyne for more information.

Kumihimo – meets at Friends in Deed and via Zoom. The next meeting will be an orientation to the Pru disc given by Pam Roederer.

Tapestry – still on hiatus due to Covid precautions

Spinning – not meeting

Weaving – meeting via Zoom. The next meeting will be a “Show and Tell” in addition to a program.

Mixed Media – is in need of a coordinator while they wait to meet in person.

SHOW AND TELL

Be sure to send a photo of your show and tell item(s) to Dagmar Munn for inclusion in the newsletter.

Debbi Brunner – took an on-line workshop sponsored by the Shaker Museum who sponsored a knit-along of rug knit in concentric circles. This looks like a perfect stash buster. (Debbi, we dare you to use only stash and not buy any yarn for this project!) Along with an attractive knitting project Debbi learned about the Shaker community, a long if precariously established religious group that has contributed so much to American crafts over the centuries. If you are interested contact shakermuseum.us and google the knit rugs of Elvira Hewitt.

Gary Tersliner wove plaid towels using a striking contrast of blue with bright yellow. The yellow color pop keeps Gary energized. He is also working on trilobite cabochon centered woven basket.

Fran Lunney has been having fun re-fashioning shirts. She changes buttons, adds peplums and applies patches.

Marie Gile who came all the way from her new home in Florida to be with us electronically, bought African inspired textiles and some French made textiles that she uses in patchwork T-shirts from a Linda Lee pattern. These Eureka tops are both creative and elegant. Linda Lee offers a variety of sewing workshops and a Boro workshop on line.

Martha Fine showed a navy knit/purl textured blanket with bright pink I-cord border she knit for her messy granddaughter. (The dark color was requested by said granddaughter’s mother who is tired of never-ending laundry. Martha couldn’t resist the touch of girly pink.)



Fran
Lunney



Marie
Gile



Marie
Gile

VALLEY FIBER ARTS GUILD
GENERAL MEETING (Continued)

Peggy McGaughey crocheted a lovely child’s sweater in pink from a one-skein crochet book.

(N.B Peggy’s grandchildren are far too big for this sweater, but Martha’s granddaughter ...)

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Sue told us about the Quilt, Craft and Sewing Festival, November 4-6 at the Tucson Expo Center.

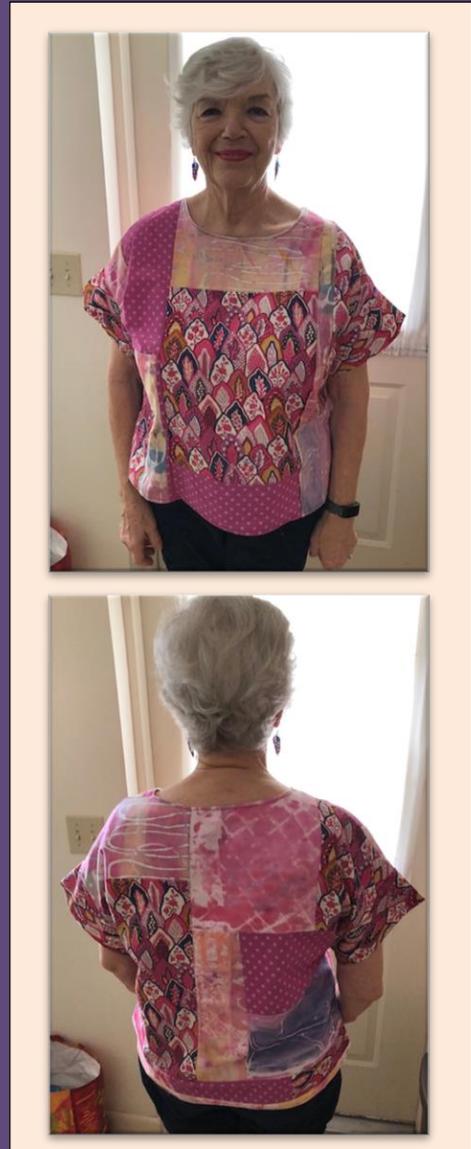
Admission is free.

There will be no meeting in December. We had planned on our annual fundraiser with a pot-luck luncheon, but in the interest in keeping members safe this was cancelled. We wish all members a joyous and healthy holiday season.

The next Valley Fiber Arts Guild general meeting is November 15 at 9:30 AM via Zoom. We look forward to seeing all of our members there.

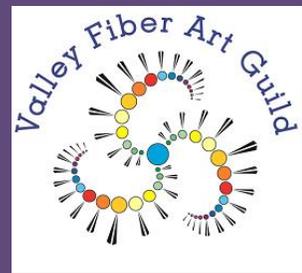
Meeting adjourned 11:36 AM

Respectfully submitted, Martha Fine, Secretary



Marie
Gile

Marie
Gile





Marie
Gile

The Shaker Rug Knit-a-Long

Article contributed by Debbi Brunner

I never know what opportunities might turn up during this time of being 'Covid Careful'.

My world has broadened immensely over the last 18 months even though I am staying close to home. I've taken classes, listened to lectures, participated in stitching and knitting groups from all over the world virtually. Two weeks ago, Carolyn Webb, a longtime friend and one of our VFAG members who lives in Vermont, emailed to say she received information about a Knit-a-Long (KAL) sponsored by the Shaker Museum in Chatham, New York. The KAL project, a knitted rug, chair seat or coaster in the style of Elvira Hulett, a Shaker Sister who lived in the 19th century. A lecture about Shaker history and lifestyle would be a part of each of the three sessions planned by the museum. Participants sign up for each session individually which was appealing in case it wasn't my cup of tea, who knew? Each session will be available via a Facebook page to revisit any time I wanted in case I decided to keep sipping the tea. So now I am involved and enjoying every minute: searching my stash for yarn, of course buying a few colors I 'needed', sampling colors and technique, then deciding the design for my rug which will grace a table rather than the floor.

If you would like to learn more, perhaps join the Knit-a-Long, go to the Shaker Museum website to learn the details and see the beautiful rugs created by Elvira Hulett.

www.shakermuseum.us or Google: knit rugs of Elvira Hulett.

~ Study Groups ~

Study Groups are open to all **current guild members**. Learn a new technique, share ideas and resources or just enjoy the friendship.

IMPORTANT ANNOUNCEMENT

"It is the expectation of the Valley Fiber Art Guild that all members attending guild in-person events are vaccinated and properly wearing a mask."

- **In response to the COVID-19 pandemic and national recommendations for social distancing, study group meetings have been modified.**

For more information about a particular group or the current topic of the month please contact the group leader.

Basketry:

The Basketry Study Group is meeting via Zoom. Contact:
Debbi Brunner – misseyb@gmail.com

Beading:

Meeting in person at Friend's in Deed from 10:30 AM until 12:00, on the second Thursday of the month. To be added to the BSG e-mail list contact Karen Gabriel
— karengary115@gmail.com

Braided Rug:

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

Clothing:

On hiatus - - no meetings scheduled.

Crochet:

Will resume meetings in November. Meets the 3rd Thursday OTM at 9:30 a.m.; at Sunrise Point Clubhouse. Toni Prutch -
portraitsbytoni@yahoo.com

Knitting:

Usually meets on the 4th Tuesday OTM; 9:30 a.m. – 12:00 noon. Group contact/Communication: Eileen Coyne: coyne.eileen@gmail.com

Kumihimo:

Due to the Thanksgiving holiday, the Kumihimo group will meet one week early on Wednesday, November 17 from 1:00-3:00 p.m. There will be an in-person meeting at Friends in Deed led by Judy Model and a simultaneous Zoom of the same icicle decoration project led by Eileen Coyne. Kits will be available for \$10. 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; 12:30-3:00 pm at Friends in Deed. Pam Roederer - roederers@gmail.com

Mixed Media Fiber:

No meetings scheduled - - on hiatus until October.

Rigid Heddle Weaving:

Rigid Heddle study group gatherings are postponed thru December. Usually meets 1-3 PM, at the Ocotillo Room at Kino Center in Quail Creek. Marilyn Wrucke -
mwrucke2@gmail.com

Spinning:

No meetings scheduled.

Tapestry Weaving:

On hiatus until January 2022. Will then be meeting 2nd Tuesday OTM at 9:30 AM in the Conference Room at Quail Creek Kino Center. Contact Debra Brown -
debrabrown15@icloud.com or April Boysen -
gaboysen1@gmail.com (720-545-7748)

Weaving:

Will be meeting via Zoom for the November and December meetings. Usually meets the 2nd Monday OTM, 1:00 p.m., Cindy Wolf –pclobo2@gmail.com or phone: 608-343-6765.

Newsletter Editor:

Dagmar Munn dagmunn1@gmail.com