



Fiber News & Updates

March 2025 Vol. 15, Issue 7

Valley Fiber Art Guild ~ www.valleyfiberartguild.org

2024 / 2025 Season

General Meeting
March 10, 2025

'Eco-Dye Journey'

presented by

Merry Warner

The March meeting will be held at the Continental Plaza, Meeting Room Green Valley, AZ 85614

Meeting / programs from 10:00am – 12 Noon

Come early to socialize at 9:30am.

VFAG Membership
\$30/year

www.valleyfiberartguild.org

We're making some changes! Read about the new fiscal year dues schedule on page 8

Grant information from Arizona Federation of Weavers & Spinners

azfed.org pages 16-17

President's Letter ~ March 2025

Dear Members

I spent a weekend at the Modern Quilt Show in Phoenix. One of the things I pondered as I walked through the exhibit is "What makes a quilt modern?" How does it differ from traditional quilts?



As fiber artists many of us spend years learning traditional techniques and aesthetics. But who wants to do the same thing that has been done countless times before?

It is very enticing to push the boundaries of tradition. But how far is too far? Most fiber arts, like other decorative arts are not just objet d'art, they have a functional reason for being. A basket contains objects, a weaving covers our bodies, a quilt warms our beds.

I think most of us are in agreement that decorative objects should retain some function but it can also be fun to play with different elements such as; negative and positive space, representation and abstraction, traditional materials or non-traditional materials.

The show gave me a lot to think about. I hope in the near future to have many more opportunities at museums, galleries and craft shows to see more examples of pushing the boundaries of tradition in our much beloved traditional fiber arts.

I would love this to be a frequent topic of conversation in our study groups.

Should we start thinking about thinking outside the box? Thinking about the box? Thinking in spite of the box?

Thoughtfully yours,

Martha Fine, President

“TAG” ~ The Art of Giving

The days are getting longer and warmer. I think of projects that I want to knit and find that I gravitate to smaller projects. Which brings me to think of TAG gifts.

For those of you who are new to the Guild, TAG is a charity project that targets the low income elderly in the area. We donate gifts to be distributed by Valley Association during the December holiday season.

There is a list of gifts listed on the Guild website, but I advise people to think of their families and what they needed as they aged. Often times it's things to keep them warm. Hats. scarves, gloves, lap blankets, etc. They also are thrilled to receive items like books, toiletries, jewelry, things they cannot afford.

I will be collecting things in November and December. However if you have things now, I do have room to store them until the holidays.

Thank you, Jane Tempel



Field Trip to the 'Amerind Museum '

in Dragoon AZ

March 27, 2025

There will be sign-up sheet at the March 10th General meeting.

See Debbi Brunner at the workshop table

Cost: & 8. each for 10 Members or more. Please bring cash to sign up. If we have fewer than 10 the fee will be \$10. payable individually at the Amerind. We will need volunteer drivers, please do think about driving, it's fun to gather 3-4 of your member friends and ride together. The Amerind is 66 miles from Sahuarita, driving time approx. 1 hour 10 minutes away. We can bring a brown bag lunch and enjoy the scenery from the picnic area, then head home or revisit the museum. In addition to there extensive permanent collections the Amerind is hosting six special exhibitions, you may read about them here: www.amerind.org

Volunteer and Make a Difference

Valley Fiber Art Guild is now over 120 members strong. We are an extremely creative group of people in a variety of mediums with a wealth of life experience to share, learn and enjoy together.

The mission of the Valley Fiber Art Guild is to promote the craft of spinning, weaving and fiber arts by providing encouragement and education with programs, demonstrations, classes, mentoring and community outreach.

VFAG welcomes and encourages members to contribute to the mission of the Guild. Please set aside a little time to think about if and how you might like to increase your participation with the Guild.

Do you have a skill, interest or passion to help VFAG with our mission?

Do you have a suggestion or idea to bring to the Guild?
Have you seen a presentation that you think others in the guild would enjoy?

The board of directors and committees look forward to hearing about your unique talents, ideas and energy. Dip your toe in the water or simply dive right in!



February Show & Share



Arizona Federation of Weavers and Spinners

Your other Guild
AZFed.org
[Facebook.com/groups/azfiberartsfederation](https://www.facebook.com/groups/azfiberartsfederation)

AZ Fiber Festival – April 9-12, 2026
Camp Verde AZ

Grant Applications

Traveling Teacher Program

To obtain information about all these programs please visit the web page AZFed.org and click on General Information there you will see the latest newsletter “The Woven Word”. This is packed with all kinds of information.

How to apply for grants.

The “Traveling Teacher” program. Locations and times and which Guilds have opening that you might want to attend.

Volunteer information about the 2026 Festival. How you can get involved. All the contact information.

Plus the Newsletter keeps you update on what some of the Guilds are doing.

AZFed Representative

Jolene Northup

Valley Fiber Art Guild ~ Events

March 10, 2025	General Meeting– Continental Mall Program ‘Eco-Dye Journey’ with Merry Warner
March 10, 2025 March 28, 2025 April 14, 2025	General Meeting ~ Continental Mall meeting room Amerind Museum Field Trip General Meeting ~ Members Stash Sale
	Reserve your Table ~ ½ or a full table

Calendar of Study Groups and Events~March 2025

Sunday Monday Tuesday Wednesday Thursday Friday Saturday

						1
2	3 Art Quilt SG	4 Tapestry SG	5	6 Spinning SG	7	8
9	10 General Meeting	11	12	13 Beading SG	14	15
16	17 Weaving SG	18 Cloth Creations SG	19	20 Basketry SG	21	22
23	24 Felting SG	25 Knitting SG	26 Kumihimo SG	27 Amerind Museum Field Trip	28 Eco-Dyeing Workshop	

VFAG Study Groups

The heart and soul of our organization and vital for sharing ideas, techniques, and most of all: friendship.

The VFAG will follow Pima County's Guidelines for COVID precautions. Whether you decide to wear a mask or not OR to create distance, you will be respected by all.

For more information about a particular group or the current topic of the month, please contact the group leader. We are always looking for new study group ideas; please let a Board Member know of your interest.

– Note: "OTM" refers to "of the month."

Art Quilts:

The Art Quilts Study Group meets the first Monday OTM from 2:00pm–4:00pm at Quilt Central, 701 W Ward Ln. Contact Martha Fine marthafine52@gmail.com for questions.

Basketry:

The Basketry study group meets the third Thursday OTM at 271 E Paseo Churea (home of Pat Merritt) Contact Pat Merritt 607–656–9795 wayoutwest18@gmail.com or Marge Delker 316–993–1768 daveandmarged@gmail.com

Beading:

Beading Study Group meets the second Thursday OTM from 10:00am to 12:00pm at Friends in Deed. Please contact Karen Gabriel at Karengary115@gmail.com or 520–207–0799 for questions.

Cloth Creations:

The Cloth Creations Study Group meets the 3rd Tuesday OTM at Desert Hill Lutheran Church. Contact Fran Lunney lunnfran@gmail.com

Felting:

Felting Study Group meets the 4th Monday OTM at Friends in Deed 12noon to 3pm. Contact: lyndyrnyon@gmail.com or call 707–373–8584 "contact Lyndy for a list of materials you would need or you can just come and watch the activity to see what we are doing."

Knitting:

The Knitting Study Group meets the fourth Tuesday OTM, from 9:30am to 11:30am at Friends in Deed meeting room A. Contact Jane Tempel at tempelj@aol.com for questions.

Kumihimo:

The Kumihimo group meet on the fourth Wednesday OTM. 1–3pm at Friends in Deed. We are a small but mighty group who would love to see new members. Contact: Laurie Wykoff at lawykoff@yahoo.com.

Rug Braiding:

By appointment with Gretchen Ramsey Contact Gretchen ~ grandmagretchen@cox.net

Spinning:

Spinning Study Group meets the 1st Thursday OTM at 9:30am~ 12noon at members homes. New spinners are welcome and we have spindles and wheels for members to borrow. Contact: Lyndy Runyon lyndyrunyon@gmail.com

Weaving: Weaving Study Group meets the third Monday OTM at 1:00pm at a members home. All weavers are invited including Tapestry & Rigid Heddle people! Contact Ann Bont for detail – about@comcast.net or 231-652-6275 for addition information.

Tapestry:

The Tapestry group meets the first Tuesday OTM, 9:30am–11:30am at Friends in Deed. Group Leaders are April Boysen and Debra Brown. Contact Debra Brown with questions at debrabrown15@icloud.com

Newsletter Editor:

Debbi Brunner, Please contact Debbi with questions or suggestions – misseyb@gmail.com
Please note: The deadline for submission is the 25th of the month preceding the Monthly

- **VFAG Board of Directors and Standing Committee Chairpersons**

- President: Martha Fine
- Vice President: Jol'ene Northrup
- Secretary: Marjorie Delker
- Treasurer: Debra Brown
- Federation: Jol'ene Northrup
- Programs/Workshops: Debbi Brunner
- Membership: Nancy Gould and Cindy Wolf
- Librarian: Melanie Fritz
- Webmaster: Tom Brunner
- Newsletter: Debbi Brunner

*******Changes to Membership Year and Dues*******

The VFAG Board of Directors has discussed and voted on membership changes. The membership year has always been aligned with our Fiscal Year, May 1 through April 30. The membership year will now be the calendar year! What does that mean to you?

Current members will NOT have to renew this April. Current members will pay dues for a calendar year beginning January 2026. Beginning the calendar year 2026, dues will increase to \$30. a year, payable through the month of January 2026. Members not paid by January 31, 2026 will be removed from the roster and membership privileges.

For the few members who have pre-paid a year ahead on the former schedule — you are paid members through December 2027. New members signing on now through December 2025 will pay dues of \$30 and be members through December 2027. We hope the new schedule will make life a little easier, leaving more brain space for creative fiber fun. You are always welcome to ask questions at the membership table or email:

Nancy Gould tngould@icloud.net

Valley Fiber Art Guild
General Meeting Minutes
February 10, 2025

Meeting held at Valley Presbyterian Church,
Meeting convened at 10AM with a social hour in the ½ hour preceding the meeting.

The Weaving Study Group was thanked for the previous month's presentation which was greatly enjoyed by our members and guests.

Debbi Brunner, Program Chair introduced our guest speaker, Judith Tracy, a volunteer docent with the Tucson Museum of Art. She presented an interesting, knowledgeable and lively presentation on Contemporary Native Art, she featured 22 contemporary indigenous artists who work in a variety of media including but not limited to painting, sculpture and fashion.

Members were invited to buy raffle tickets during the break.

NEW BUSINESS

The slate of nominees will be presented at the March meeting. We have a nominee for Vice-President but not for Treasurer. Voting will take place at the April General Meeting.

The March 10 meeting will take place at the meeting room at Continental Plaza, Merry Warner will present on Eco Dyeing. She showed us some of the silk scarves she has eco-dyed.

We have arranged for a field trip to the Tucson Desert Art Museum on February 27. Meeting time and place will be sent out in an email the week prior.

NEW BUSINESS

Vice-President - The Arizona Federation needs volunteers for next year's festival.

Programs - March 10 Merry Warner: Eco Dyeing

April - Stash Sale

SHOW & SHARE - Vicki Bonhoff showed a quilt she made for the Arizona Centennial.

Attendees of Debbie Brunner's Parfleche Painting workshop showed the leather they painted and turned into purses and journal covers.

Attendees of Yvonne Steinbrings Twined Rug Workshop showed the pieces they produced. Gary Tersiliner made 3! Some will be given to some very lucky kitties as nap mats.

Reb Ashmore showed 2 lovely and intricately beaded needle cases.

Nancy Gould showed an improv woven basket and Debbi Brunner showed an improvisational weaving using copper mesh and fabric scraps. (I do believe we are seeing a trend here!)

Respectfully Submitted,

Martha Fine

Education Opportunities

The 2024–25 Program & Workshop committee has a plethora of great workshops and classes in the coming months. You can read full information on our website, www.valleyfiberartguild.org take full advantage of your membership. Enjoy interesting programs each month and sign up for a classes, learn something new. We've included a Registration Form in the newsletter (page 11) to print and send with your check.

Please note: Workshop/Class registrations fees are non-refundable, if for some reason you are unable to take the workshop or class it is possible to find someone who would like to take the class. We will make every effort to help you find a replacement. Thank you for your consideration.

2025 VFAG Workshop

'Eco Dyeing'

with Merry Warner

March 28, 2025 10am ~ 3:30pm

Valley Presbyterian Church ~ Fellowship Hall

Learn how to prepare your items for printing and how to design the layout of leaves and other organic. materials. Teacher will demonstrate how Materials fee: \$25 includes silk scarf blanks, silk fabric pieces, paper, assorted leaves, onion skins, and tea,

Skill level: No experience needed

Class Fee: \$58.00 4 spaces left

Materials fee: \$25 includes silk scarf blanks, silk fabric pieces, paper, assorted leaves, onion skins, and tea, as well as all tools and equipment needed for class. Optional, Bring extra silk scarves and sample fabric pieces if you wish.

Registration deadline for this class is March 10th.





Workshop Registration Form

To reserve a seat in a Workshop, tuition must be paid in full at registration.

Today's date _____

Please check one

☐ VFA Guild Member

☐ I am not a Member of the VFA Guild

Workshop	Instructor	Date	Amount

Total tuition amount _____

Mail this completed Registration Form
and your check payable to 'VFA Guild' for the full tuition amount to:

Debbi Brunner,
1692 W. Corte de Cajamarca
Sahuarita, AZ 85629
520-631-9908
miskeyb@gmail.com

Please include instructor's name on check memo line

Your name

Address

City/State/Zip

Phone

Email

March Fiber News

~Members Items for Sale ~

and Studio Classes

Burnham loom, it is 48" wide, floor loom, 8 harness, 12 heddles. Must dissemble to move but easy to put back together. Great loom for rugs and tableware or towels.

Price: \$550

Please text questions and interest to: Kay Huisjen: 970-371-1880



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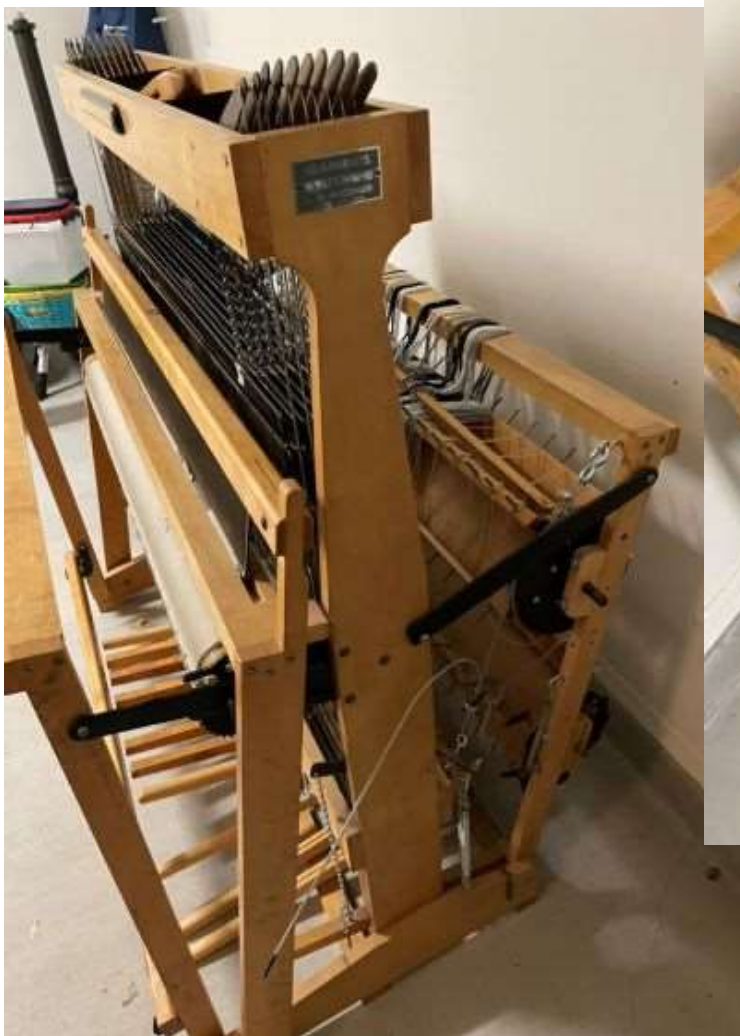
Navajo loom, handmade and very sturdy. Overall size: 44" (h) x 30" (w).
\$50, pick-up in Green Valley. Marcia Wiener, 410-299-1666.



Continued on the next page.....

Macomber is a great loom for everything from rugs to lace.

48" wide, 10 shaft, 12 treadles, 2 back beams (1 sectional), 3 reeds, and a raddle. My parents purchased it from Macomber in the early 1950's and then I inherited it and have loved using it. \$2000. Barb Giesen, 269-352-1095, bgiesen972@mac.com



Continued on the next page.....

Artist Sale ~

Lyndy Runyon, invites you to see her latest wearable art, sculptures and needle felted pieces during the Artist's Open Studios Tour, March 14–16th 10AM–4PM. Lyndy's work will be displayed in her front courtyard at 477 E Paseo Chuparosas in Green Valley.



Workshops in my studio.....

www.deborahbrunner.com

for complete information

March 26th ~ 1 day class

Zhen Xian Bao ~ Chinese Thread Box

April 16th & 17th ~ 1 ½ day class

Handmade Paper Books or Albums



In Memory of Sharon Laws

Our longtime member Sharon Laws passed away in February, I thought it would be fitting to introduce Sharon for those who didn't know her and bring back memories for those who did. Sharon was an integral part of the Valley Fiber Art Guild, as a longtime member she was adored by all who know her and those who came to know her as they joined the guild. Sharon was generous with her talents, always ready with an idea for a class, willing to teach something she had recently learned and enticing many of us to start new and interesting projects. We all have things in our closets thanks to Sharon's expertise. She was funny, smart, creative and excelled in all things in her life. The art she leaves behind is testament to her talents and generous soul. Truly, she was someone to be admired and she looked so much better in a pair of 'Swants' than Steven West!



ARIZONA FEDERATION OF WEAVERS AND SPINNERS GUILDS, INC.
Individual Education Grant Guidelines and Application

Application on Next Page

An individual education grant may be offered to one or more individual members each year. The amount of each grant will be determined by the Board of Directors of the Federation, but the total amount of funds allocated to individual education grants each year will not exceed \$500. In order to apply for grant funds, an individual must belong to a currently paid-up Guild member of the Federation at the time the application is submitted.

The individual grant is intended to help augment expenses for conferences, workshops, retreats or other educational opportunities in the fiber arts. The recipient of the Grant must share their new learnings with the other members of the Federation through an article published in the Woven Word and a lecture or workshop in their home Guild.

This presentation must be open to all Federation members, and consideration should be given to provide ways in which any Federation member, regardless of location within Arizona, can access the presentation. Some ways this might be accomplished are through remote participation platforms, such as Zoom. For presentations that are easily and effectively recorded, such as lectures and some types of workshops, recording the event and making it available to Federation members on a private YouTube channel, or other appropriate platform, should be considered.

An individual may apply any year, but receipt of previous grant funds will be taken into account in evaluating applications.

Individuals should use the application form that is available on the Federation website. If there is a technical reason why the form cannot be used (i.e., software incompatibility) an application in an alternative form must address all of the items that are on the official application form.

Applications are due on September 1 of each year for activities to take place during the following calendar year. The Education Committee will review the grant applications and make a recommendation to the entire Board at the fall Board meeting.

Adopted April 27, 2024

Arizona Federation of Weavers and Spinners Guilds

Application for Individual Education Grant

Instructions: Please fill out the form by typing in the gray fields. The form will expand to additional lines and pages as needed. Return form via email to the current President of the Federation.

Applications are due September 1 of each year for activities to take place in the following calendar year.

Name of Individual and Guild affiliation:

Individual Contact Name:

Contact Address:

Contact Phone:

Contact email:

I am applying for a grant for funds to be used towards a retreat or special event (workshop, instructor, etc.).

Type and/or title of event:

Date of event:

Location of event:

Amount of money requested (not to exceed \$500):

Describe the event in detail, including how the grant money would be used.

Have you applied for a grant previously?

If yes, when?

Did you receive the grant?

How will you make access to the learnings from the funded event available to other Federation Guild members?

Adopted April 27, 2024