



# Fiber News & Updates

March 2023 Vol. 13, Issue 8

Valley Fiber Art Guild ~ [www.valleyfiberartguild.org](http://www.valleyfiberartguild.org)

## ~ Looking Ahead ~

### 2023

Most meetings held at CPAC  
1250 W Continental Rd  
Green Valley, AZ  
All meetings are in person.  
Come early at 9am for library  
browsing & chatting. Meeting  
starts at 9:30am.

**Mon. March 20<sup>th</sup>:** General Meeting  
**Time: 9:00am at CPAC**  
**SHAPES WE WEAR**  
Presented by Knitting Study Group

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**Mon. April 17<sup>th</sup>:** General  
Meeting ~ Stash Sale  
**Time: 9am**

**Location: Continental Plaza  
Conference Room  
2023**  
**Time: 9am Setup**  
**Sale: 9:30am**

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**Mon. September 18<sup>th</sup>:**  
General Meeting  
**Time: 9:00am at CPAC**

## Valley Fiber Art Guild



Membership \$25/year

[www.valleyfiberartguild.org](http://www.valleyfiberartguild.org)  
**Download an enrollment form**

## ~ PRESIDENT'S NEWSLETTER ~



During the past month I have attended two quilt shows -The Tucson Quilt Fiesta and the other in Sierra Vista, two fiber art shows at the JCC in Tucson, explored the Sonoran Desert Museum, watched in wonder as butterflies flitted about the Tucson Botanical Gardens, was delighted by an elephant mom and her child romping at the Reid Park Zoo and watched snow fall on the desert.

During the break of our February meeting a few headed out the door to photograph a moody gray mist hovering about the Santa Rita mountains. I fully expect this scene to appear in future Show and Shares. Mother nature smacked me upside the head and showed me the powerful inspiration we fiber and other artists can get from her. While at the Reid Park Zoo, I stopped in at a rest room and photographed a ceramic tile of an elephant standing under a palm tree. The ceramic artist was inspired by an elephant and I figure I can



adapt this artist's line drawing to make a perfect design for a rainbow elephant quilt. Entranced by the butterflies at the Botanical Gardens I searched for images on google and found a lovely multicolor butterfly intended as a pattern for cross-stitchers. I simplified the design and reduced the number of color changes so it could be used as an intarsia knitting pattern

My forays to quilt and fiber art shows showed me the cross pollination of ideas between artists as we are all inspired by nature.



And then I'm going to just sit!

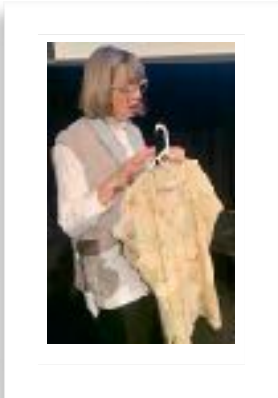
Fondly,  
Martha Fine, Acting President

## February 20, 2023 Meeting Highlights: Debbi Brunner & Slow Stitching



Debbi Brunner talked about her journey with hand stitching ...from young girl to present day. She has done a variety of stitching...embroidery, boro, kantha, hand piecing and more. She brought a number of samples which included...jackets and vests, a hand stitched linen coat, the asylum dress, stitching on felted pieces, stitched books, stitching done with various weight threads and even hand dyed ribbons.

Thank you Debbi for such an informative presentation!



~ March 20, 2023 Program ~

## SHAPES WE WEAR

For the March program, the Knitting Study Group will be presenting various shapes and styles of designs that have been created by its members. Many are knitted, but there may be a few crocheted items thrown in. From shawls, scarves, ponchos etc. it promises to be a colorful and fun event.





## April 17, 2023 STASH Sale

### It's Spring Cleaning Time

**You are faced with not having made a dent in your ever growing STASH**

**Oh, What to do????**

**We hear you and we have a plan for you!**

**Set up at 9am**

**Stash Sale Begins at 9:30am**

Once a year (in April) the Guild offers members the opportunity to “de-stash” a bit. Doesn't that sound perfect? Take a look in those closets, bins, drawers, baskets (wherever you stash away your stash). Start boxing up that fiber or fiber equipment that no longer gives you JOY and prepare to bring it to the STASH SALE on April 17th.

On the flip side of this ... you may find some great treasures to take home with you!

#### Guidelines:

- ☘ Sell fiber, yarns, fiber related implements and your hand-made items
- ☘ Price your items and mark clearly
- ☘ Prepare to make change by bringing small bills and coins
- ☘ Bring some shopping bags to pack up sold items.
- ☘ Let us know if you intend to sell; please contact Martha Fine (415.246.6234 or [marthafine52@gmail.com](mailto:marthafine52@gmail.com))
- ☘ Full tables may be limited. Please be flexible and prepare to share a table



#### **Following the Stash Sale:**

1. Business meeting with election of officers
2. Show and Share
3. Socializing over lunch. Bring a sack lunch or buy a sandwich downstairs at the little Café and eat in the tables provided in the courtyard.
4. A SPECIAL DESSERT will be provided ... YUM!



February 20, 2023 Show 'n Share and Socializing





## Greetings from the Library

Greetings fellow fiber artists!

Thank you all so much for how last month's library usage went! I am still updating the library system as I type this, and hope to have everything up to date soon.

I have two important announcements to share this month:

- First, I am still recovering from my recent surgery and I was just notified by my surgeon that she wants me to get scheduled for radiation treatments. Meaning that I may not be able to make this month's meeting after all since the radiation is a daily occurrence for several weeks.
- Second, and I was just made aware of this since we were in covid lockdown for so long, that I forgot how we handle our end-of-year library checkouts.

All of this means that there will be NO NEW LIBRARY checkouts for the month of March. All items that are currently checked out are **due back at the March meeting**. The April meeting is not being held at CPAC, so there is no access to the library collection for our last meeting of the season. **PLEASE return all checked out materials at the March 20th meeting**. I will not be accepting any returns at the April meeting as I can not store them at my residence until the first fall meeting.

If anyone is unable to make the March meeting to return items, please pass them on to a friend who will be attending.

I apologize for the late notice.

Melanie/VFAG Librarian



## TAG

(The Art of Giving)

This winter gave me a chance to wear most of my knitted shawls! I found shawls that I knit years ago and reminisced about the new techniques and yarns that I experimented with. It was a pleasure. But now the weather is warming and I am thinking about smaller projects to tackle. No more carrying large shawls on my lap during warm weather.

It also reminds me of TAG items I enjoy knitting during the summer whether it be hats or fingerless gloves, scarves or other smaller items; I know they will be appreciated by the low income elderly in our area.

There are many other items that are welcome. I donate books and make a handmade bookmark; lap blankets from fleece are always appreciated, as are washcloths and dishcloths. I always think of my mom and grandma and what put a smile on their face when I gave them a handmade gift. They loved anything that made them warm. One year, I made a knitted basket and filled it with knitted Easter eggs. She laughed and enjoyed inviting everyone to her room in the nursing home to see. (My chicken didn't turn out so well. Rather lop-sided!).

Please join me this year to put a smile on some faces for the holidays.

Thank you in advance. Jane Tempel

## Membership Update

- We have 3 new members for a total of 88 Guild members! Please extend a warm welcome to our new and returning members at the March meeting
- Annual dues are \$25 for the 2023/2024 year (May 1, 2023 to April 30, 2024)
- A new membership form needs to accompany your payment
- Download and print the FORM found on our website and follow the directions (<https://valleyfiberartguild.org>); you'll find this on the home page with a blue colored button
- Or visit the Membership table at the March meeting for a form and to pay the \$25 fee (cash or check)



## VFAG'S FIRST 2023 UNOFFICIAL FIELD TRIP

On Thursday, Feb 23, six members of VFAG met up at the Tucson Jewish Community Center to view the Tucson Handweavers & Spinners Guild exhibit "Celebrating Five Decades of Art and Friendship". The exhibition featured a large variety of handwoven items including wall hangings, garments, accessories and sculptures made by their members over the last 50 years.

Personally, I find much greater enjoyment in viewing a show like this with my fellow fiber enthusiasts rather than with a somewhat reluctant husband. Each of us brings our unique point of view to the experience and by sharing it I find a deeper, more nuanced comprehension of the pieces I am looking at. We were frustrated by the numerous Do Not Touch signs but to our great delight a member of that Guild was present and pointed out the portion of the sign written in invisible ink that excepted members of the Valley Fiber Arts Guild. We were able to go back through the exhibit and touch to our hearts content. We truly do see with our fingers as well as our eyes.

We are hopeful that this is the first of many unofficial VFAG field trips. So, if you hear of an event or exhibit that may be of interest to our members, let us know and we may make it our next unofficial field trip.

~ Martha Fine ~



## Interesting Tid Bits!



### Kumihimo Braiders Having Fun!



### Who Can Relate?

*I never finish  
anything. I have a  
black belt in  
partial arts!*



### LUNCH OUT!

After last month's meeting a few of us met up at Arizona Family Restaurant for an impromptu lunch. It was such a good opportunity to get to know each other better that we want to do it again. If you would like to join your fellow VFAG members after the next meeting, meet up in the lobby of CPAC and we will sashay over to Arizona Family Restaurant on Esperanza Drive. Join Martha & gang after the March meeting.





## Valley Fiber Arts Guild Minutes of the General Meeting, February 20, 2023

The February Guild meeting was attended by 36 members and featured a presentation about Slow Stitching by Debbi Brunner. Accompanied by a slide show about the history of hand stitching, she showed many examples of her own creations. During Show and Share, members presented their creations : a dyed table cloth by Lynn Swan; a fabric bowl and slow stitch needle case by Dale Box; twined baskets and a slow stitch design by Debra Brown and felted scarves by Lyndy Runyon. Guests and new members were introduced. The Guild business meeting then followed.

### **I. Announcement of Slate of Officers by Nominating Committee**

President: Martha Fine

Vice President: Jol'ene Northup

Secretary: Marge Delker

Treasurer: Debra Brown

The need for a Newsletter Editor was announced and Cheri Golden volunteered for that position. The slate of officers will be voted on at the March meeting.

### **II. Field Trip to the Tucson Spinners and Weavers Guild Gallery Show**

Martha Fine gave the details of forming a carpool to go to the gallery show at the Jewish Community Center in Tucson on February 23rd.

### **III. Planning for the Arizona Federation of Weaving and Spinning Guild's Conference**

Our Valley Fiber Arts Guild is a member of the Arizona Federation. The Federation is working with the Verde Valley Guild (Sedona) in the planning for a 2 1/2 day conference next spring which would include fee-based workshops. Jol'ene Northup asked for a show of hands of those interested in attending and of willingness to actively helping with conducting the conference. An email will be sent to VFAG members to poll interests in attending and helping.

The Federation's Quarterly Newsletter can be found on VFAG website. The Federation's Traveling Teacher program may be reinstated in 2024.

### **IV. Reports**

Membership: Cindy Wolf reported a current membership of 88.

Treasurer: The current bank balance is \$8356.00

### **V. Study Groups:**

Cloth Study Group - Peggy McGaughey announced that the group will meet on February 21 at the Desert Hills Lutheran Church and Debby Brunner will demonstrate Slow Stitching techniques.

Beading Group - The Beading Group meets the 2nd Thursday of the month at Friends in Deed from 10:00 to 12:00. They are currently working on the peyote stitch.

Knitting Group - The Knitting Group will meet on Tuesday, Feb 29th at Friends in Deed. They will discuss their March presentation for the Guild.

Spinning Group - Sally Young announced the formation of a Spinning Group. A sign-up sheet was passed around to access interest

### **VI. March Program**

Marge Lind announced that the Knitting Group will present a program in March.

### **VII. Lunch Group**

Martha Fine described the plan to meet for lunch after Guild meetings at the Arizona Family Restaurant. Afterwards there will be a tour of two artists' studios for those who are interested.

Respectfully Submitted, Marjorie Delker, Secretary

## Study Groups

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

**The VFAG will follow CPAC & 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.

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

We are always looking for ideas for new study groups - please let a Board Member know of your interest.

### Beading:

The Beading Study Group met on March 9 and continued working on the peyote Pod Necklace and reviewed how to start flat and tubular peyote. On Thursday, April 13, we will meet from 10:00 AM until 12:00 at Friends In Deed. We will then stuff and zip up the Peyote Pods for our necklace. For more information contact Karen Gabriel at [karengary115@gmail.com](mailto:karengary115@gmail.com) or 520.207.0799.

### Clothing:

Clothing Study Group meets on for Tuesday, March 21st at 9:30, Desert Hills Lutheran Church. Contact Sudie at [sudie1052@gmail.com](mailto:sudie1052@gmail.com) for questions.

### Crochet:

The Crochet group meets the third Thursday OTM at Sunrise Clubhouse at 9:30 am. Contact Toni Prutch 503.349.6491 or at [portraitsbytoni@yahoo.com](mailto:portraitsbytoni@yahoo.com)

### Knitting:

The KSG meets on the 4th Tuesday of each month at Friends in Deed @ 9:30 AM. Contact Jane Tempel at [tempelj@aol.com](mailto:tempelj@aol.com) for questions.

### Kumihimo:

The Kumihimo Study Group meets the 4th Wednesday OTM at Friends in Deed at 1pm. Contact: Laurie Wykoff at [lawykoff@yahoo.com](mailto:lawykoff@yahoo.com). In March, Sue Helle will teach the square braid.

### Weaving:

The Weaving study group meets the 2nd Monday OTM, 1:00 p.m. Contact Cindy Wolf for more details. All weavers are invited including Tapestry & Ridge Heddle people! Cindy Wolf – [pclobo2@gmail.com](mailto:pclobo2@gmail.com) or phone: 608.343.6765.

### Spinning:

**NEW!** This study group has started with strong interest. Next meeting is April 7th at 2pm. Location: 909 W Rio Altar. Contact Sally Young - [rare1alaska@gmail.com](mailto:rare1alaska@gmail.com) or 907.322.9264.

**Newsletter Editor:** Eileen Coyne & Cheri Golden. Please contact Eileen with questions or suggestions - [coyne.eileen@gmail.com](mailto:coyne.eileen@gmail.com)

### VFAG Board of Directors and Committee Chairs

- President Elect: Martha Fine
- Vice President: Jol'ene Northrup
- Secretary: Marjorie Delker
- Treasurer: April Boysen
- Federation: Jol'ene Northrup
- Programs: Marge Lind
- Membership: Peggy McGaughey and Cindy Wolf
- Librarian: Melanie Fritz
- Webmaster: Open
- Newsletter: Eileen Covne & Cheri Golden