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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN JUAN COUNTY TEXTILE GUILD

SPRING 2020

April 25 Quarterly Meeting, Willow Basket Class Cancelled

Sadly, our newsletter this quarter will be a short one. In case you missed my earlier email announcement, the following meetings and events are cancelled:

- April 25 All-Island Meeting
- April 25-26 Willow basket class
- Shaw Day, until further notice
- October Guild retreat

The County Fair is not yet cancelled, but stay tuned. We can hope!

The Guild Board held our Spring meeting online via Zoom. Mostly we discussed all the things that are cancelled. But one bright spot is we haven't lost our urge to be creative. Read Susan Bradford's article about the possibility of a grant from the Association of Northwest Weaving Guilds (ANWG). And to continue the theme of creativity, I have some thoughts about color that I hope inspire you.

- Jason Munkres, SJCTG Guild President



Guild Fall Get-Away Cancelled

Ah, the best laid plans.... We were going to announce our exciting plans for the 2020 Retreat at the April meeting. But of course the meeting was not meant to be, nor was the Retreat. It had morphed into a Get-Away on Whidbey Island at a fabulous house, with less structure than we have had in the past, but still lots of time to be together in a creative environment.

However, at our virtual Board meeting a couple weeks ago it was decided that a clear and healthy path for October was too uncertain. We sadly cancelled the reservation with plenty of time to have our sizable deposit returned in full.

When the time is right, we will revisit the entire concept. Times have obviously changed and new times may very well demand a new look at what our members need and want. But rest assured, if at all possible, we will be offering something wonderful for 2021.

- Susan Bradford, for the Retreat Committee

A Group Guild Project and Possible ANWG Grant

Susan Bradford

At the Board meeting a couple of weeks ago, conducted via Zoom, we were tossing around some ideas we could use to apply for a \$600 ANWG grant. Some of us were also bemoaning the fact that even though we have more time, we aren't feeling all that creative. And normally at this time we would be starting to think of the Fair and the big push that entails to prepare work to exhibit in the Wool Shed, for the Challenge Theme, and/or for the Sales Booth.

Although the Fair has not been officially cancelled yet, we are thinking it is very likely that it will be. So where does that leave us all?

We needed a reason to get back into our studios and we came up with the idea of having a virtual show for The Fair. It will give us all a goal and something to nudge us back to work. This is the general idea: We'd all get busy (like today!), and make our usual beautiful work. Create as many pieces as you wish, or just one if that works

for you. The title for this show will be **Woven Together in Pandaemia.**

You can make pieces that reflect how you are feeling in the midst of the pandemic, but it is not necessary to address it as a theme. The virus is affecting us all even if it's not reflected directly in our work. The concept is to have a few meetings via Zoom in the next few months to talk about what we're doing and how we're feeling about our work and our creative process. We'd edit those conversations and intersperse them with photographs of the finished pieces. If you just want to submit work, but shy away from Zoom, not a problem. Just make work!

We'd present this at the time of the Fair to as many people as possible. If we get the ANWG grant, we'd use it for high quality photographs of the work and for editing the conversations. Once we have that video document, we can show it to local museums and galleries, and it may even lead to an actual exhibition.



Free Your Colors!

Jason Munkres

When I am weaving or planning a new project, I'm often not sure who is in control —me or the color. I have un-woven hours of work based on misbehaving colors. But maybe it's my fault. Maybe it's not what the color wanted. I have heard authors talk about their characters taking control of the writing. Maybe it's the same with yarns.

As I sat down to write this, I noticed the late afternoon sunlight streaming into the studio, low and filtered through fir and

leafless oaks. Everything looked different for a moment, just a tad warmer than a minute earlier. That skein of red yarn hanging on the loom lost its pinkish hue and looked a little more ruddy. It reminded me of a couple of past encounters I've had with color and light.

Once in my old studio, a back bedroom with a single 60-watt bulb, I was selecting yarns for a project. A purple I chose that night actually turned out to be a dark orange by the light of day. After that, I learned to take my yarn to the well-lit kitchen for second opinions. On a more recent occasion, a wall hanging I had woven, with a sharp contrast of olive and copper-colored yarns against a background of subtle tans that were stunning in the studio, became dulled and washed out against an Easter-yellow wall. It simply didn't work.

Color and light can be tricky and elusive. But they can inspire joy and creativity, too. My mother left me lots of old cones of rug wool, each labeled with a sharpie indicating its color. Of course, one uses all the lovely and fun colors first. But at some point, you have to do something with all those cones of



dusty rose, labeled "799". I lined them up on the floor with some of the other less-used colors and started plying yarns together. It turns out that 799 is really good at working with other colors, either as a complement or as an enhancement to other like colors. We're good friends now.

I suppose my point is that colors are what we make of them. And they need to be able to express themselves. At least let them think they're in control.

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| <p>The deadline for the Summer 2020 issue of <i>'tiles</i> is July 18. Forward articles to Susan McBain at slmcbain@gmail.com. Please send articles electronically if possible.</p> | <p>Advertising policy: No charge to place "For Sale" or "Wanted" ads. Business ads are not published in <i>'tiles</i> . Guild members operating a for-profit business may place a text-only listing in the annual SJCTG Roster at no charge.</p> | <p>Membership: Dues are \$20 (\$30 if you want a mailed paper copy of <i>'tiles</i>). Contact Membership Chair Robin Atkins at 360-370-7066 or robin@robinatkins.com. Deadline for inclusion in the printed annual roster is December 31.</p> |
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