

# 'tiles

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN JUAN COUNTY TEXTILE GUILD

SUMMER 2020

## The 2020 County Fair, Virtual Style

This year we will be having a “virtual” county fair, due to the ongoing pandemic. What does that mean? It means that although the Fiber Arts Exhibit will be significantly scaled back this year, we will still make the most of it. Most, if not all, events will be online, including entries. There will be no ribbons, but there will be People’s Choice awards. I think it will be a good opportunity to share what you all have been working on since the pandemic began.

Also different this year is the timing for entering items into the Fair. All items for the fair must be entered by **August 1**. For each entry, submit photos, a video, or both. Go to <https://www.sicfair.org/p/virtualfair/onlineentry> to enter your items now.

Sadly, no Courtyard activities and no Sheep to Shawl event, either. However, we will have a few demonstration videos available on the Fair’s website. We have three so far, and if anyone has a video they would like to submit, either instructional or just an interesting video about fiber arts, please contact Patti Barker at [pattibarker58@gmail.com](mailto:pattibarker58@gmail.com) or Valarie Keaton at [val@valariekeaton.com](mailto:val@valariekeaton.com), and we’ll work to make that video available.



In addition to the demonstration videos, we are working on providing interviews with Guild members as part of the *Woven Together in Pandaemia* project. See the “Guild YouTube Channel” article on p. 4 for more information.

We have also scaled back the premium book (the listing of different classes and rules) for this year. Once things start to

settle back to normal, we can go back to our traditional classes. In the meantime, below are the Classes for Fiber Arts for 2020.

Fiber arts entries: Hand-Spun Yarn, Knitting, Crochet, Hand Weaving, Felting, Bobbin Lace, Braiding, Tatting, Paper Making, Macrame, and Other Fiber Techniques. Items should have been completed within the past year.

**Class I:** Any Fair-Themed item. This year’s fair theme is “2020 - A Fair Odyssey.” We want to hear about your own “odyssey.” Submit photos, video (up to 20 minutes) or photos and a description of your project.

**For Classes II - V,** listed below, please submit photos and/or video (under 5 minutes) and description of your entry.

**Class II:** Garments and Accessories

**Class III:** Household, Art, and Other Fiber Items

**Class IV:** Youth Division - (16 and Younger)

**Class V:** “Virtual” Wool Shed Challenge item – “Stir Crazy!” Anything that you made that kept you from going “stir crazy” during lockdown!

There will be a People’s Choice award for each day at the fair. Any item that previously won the award will not be eligible for another day.

See you (virtually) at the Fair!

Jason Munkres  
Fiber Arts Superintendent



## 2020: A Year to Remember, Unfortunately

- from Jason Munkres, Guild President

Well, this sure is a bust of a year for the Textile Guild! It seems like all the normal fun stuff has been put on indefinite hold. But that doesn’t mean there aren’t plenty of outlets for your creativity.

The County Fair might be down, but it’s not out. There is just too much passion and creativity on these islands to let all that talent go unnoticed. You can still enter your work in the Fair, but hurry: the deadline for entries is **August 1**.

If you need more inspiration, remember that the Guild has a well-stocked library as well as looms, spinning wheels, electric dye pots and more available for check out. See

Patti Barker’s note about the Library, p. 4. Our website has the full list at <http://www.sjctextileguild.org/library.html>.

The *Woven Together in Pandemia* project, with its bi-monthly Zoom meetings, continues. I would encourage anyone who is interested to attend. To be truthful, I was reluctant at first to spend even more time thinking about the pandemic. But it has turned out to be so much more than that and it has really grown on me. It has really heightened my sense of community in the Guild. And I am grateful for that.

Stay well and stay creative,  
Jason

## **Draft Minutes of the SJCTG All-Island Meeting, Shaw Island Community Center, Jan. 25, 2020**

- From Karol McLuen, Secretary

Meeting called to order at 12:36 p.m.

Minutes – approved, Jan moved to accept, Susan seconded, unanimously accepted

Financial Report – no questions from members, Jan moved to accept, Susan seconded – unanimously accepted

Newsletter – Susan McBain – nothing new to report

Membership – Robin Atkins – 103 members. Handed out roster and membership cards.

Scholarships – nothing new to report

Librarian – nothing new to report

Historian – Anita Barreca– shared a photo journal that she made of past activities from prior year. A copy will be placed in the library, and one given to the past president, Valarie Keaton.

Fair Sales Booth – Patti Barker is managing it and collecting items to sell.

Fiber Arts Superintendent – Jason Munkres – Theme of the fair is “2020 – A Fair Odyssey,” no new info, will work on a plan.

Sheep to Shawl – nothing new to report at this time

ANWG Rep – grants available from them – more to come

Website – nothing new to report

Island Reps –

- Lopez – MaryLynn Whitley – project at the library going well.
- Orcas – nothing new to report
- San Juan Island – Susan Rosenberg – monthly meetings on the second Tuesday 12:30-2:30 in the SJI library conference room. Meeting on February 11, 2020 will be sharing current projects, and bring some vintage textile items to share.
- Shaw – Jan Chamberlin – meeting one night a week, people not committing.

Spring All Island Meeting – April 25, 2020 at Orcas Grange

Old Business –

- Shaw day – Workshop? Class? Open to ideas.
- Carol Strom – Candy Hoeschen had a double mastectomy and is doing very well.

Program – Karen Alfke speaking on “Stash.” Karen shared her interest in minimalism and sustainability by using our stashes to create.

Plenty of tasty snacks, coffee and tea – thank you everyone.

We were able to share items at the De-Stash/Re-Stash table.

Meeting adjourned at 2:20.

## **Our Own Guild YouTube Channel, Just in Time for the Fair!**

Our guild now has its own YouTube Channel! The plan is to link this to the County Fair at our online Fiber Arts page. Valarie and I have been uploading videos to begin populating it. We are looking for short videos that teach or demo something, or are fiber art educational, featuring our members. If you have such a thing, contact me, Patti Barker, [pattibarker58@gmail.com](mailto:pattibarker58@gmail.com), or Valarie Keaton.



### **Guild Library News**

- from Patti Barker, Librarian

The SJC Textile Guild Library has been moved! Bonnie is moving her craft store into a much smaller space and will no longer have room to host our collection. The bookshelf and our collection have been moved temporarily to my studio. Anyone looking to learn something new can make an appointment with me to view the library; call or text 360-298-5508.

At a recent board meeting there was some discussion about members considering bequeathing book collections to the guild. As we age, some of us think about this sort of thing. We discussed some kind of policy, whereby the Guild reserves the right to sell or donate to local libraries those books not needed. The rare books would be treated properly by being kept in a glass case in a temperature-controlled environment, and would be available to Guild members to enjoy.

Robin Atkins has generously donated two of her publications to our collection. Personally, I'm very excited about "The Complete Photo Guide to Beading." What a treasure! Thanks again, Robin.

## **This Year, a Roster with Photos!**

- from Anita Barreca, Archivist

As your Archivist, I'm faced with an interesting opportunity this year. Usually I make a recording of our year with photos from our quarterly meetings, the many workshops, and several pages are devoted to the Fair. Here's an example:

<http://www.sjtextileguild.org/galleries.html>

But this year things came to an abrupt stop after our Winter Quarterly on Shaw. No workshops, no retreat, and a virtual Fair only. What's an archivist to do?

Fortunately, inspiration stuck while I was attending a Zoom *Woven Together in Pandaemia* meeting. People have joined this meeting whom I have never seen before because they are new or have never been to the same meetings or workshops that I've attended. What I need to make is a real annual with all of our faces, so we know who we are all besides names in a roster. (BTW, I was the editor of my high school yearbook)

I'm going to amend the idea of just our faces and ask for a picture of your face OR something that you've made. But the best picture you could send is one with both you and something you've made in it. (See my example, right.) To this end, I will be making a personal request to all of you to send a

photo to me—preferably in 600 d.p.i. or better. We have 100+ members, and what a wonderful record this could be for our Guild.

So please, send me a nice photo of you and/or an example of your craft. This does represent a lot more work for me than usual so if you could send it to me soon, I would appreciate it. As an added incentive, remember, as archivist, I have lots of picture that you might be in. May as well send me the picture of your choice or I might choose for you! Anita Barreca, [thornbush@rockisland.com](mailto:thornbush@rockisland.com), 360-622-9797.



## What “*Woven Together in Pandemia*” Means to Me

- from Robin Atkins

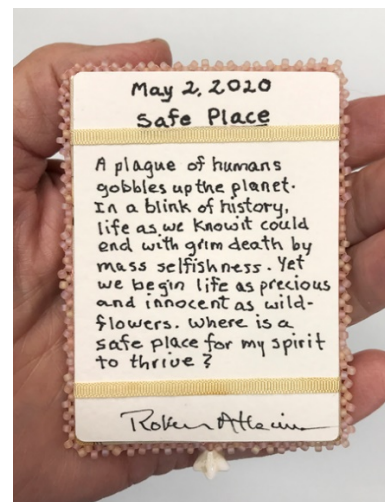
For two months, March and April, I was stuck in Pandemic paralysis, finding it difficult (if not impossible) to accomplish anything. The laundry piled up, the weeds obscured my roses, bead and sewing projects were untouched. It felt crazy, because I had all this time, days and days at home with nothing required of me, yet I did nothing. Coming to the first *Woven Together* zoom meeting, a very lonely person with her mojo in a cave somewhere, I didn't have a lot of hope that it would help me.

Wow, was I ever wrong about that! Just to touch base in a personal way with other Guild members, to hear what others were experiencing, to see that others were stuck and lonely too, immediately gave me a healing sense of connection that started to lift the fog surrounding me. But, not everyone was stuck. Some who came to the meetings had been very productive, using all the stay-at-home time to finish a long list of projects. They helped me too... by offering inspiration.

Right after that first meeting, I was able to settle into finishing quilting projects I had started before corona came knocking on our doors. And then, Carol Strum, who is also participating in *Woven Together*, reminded me about an artist (not a local) who had made a series of 100 amulets. That was a huge turning point, because it gave me an idea to use words from my journal and poems I'd been writing as the basis to create a visual diary of how I experience the corona pandemic. Now I've almost completely emerged from the funk, with my mojo back in full swing.

Without the compassion, inspiration, and companionship of other Guild members as expressed in *Woven Together* Zoom meetings, I would probably still be playing cards on the computer and staring at weeds overtaking my yard ... my hands idle. I'll be forever grateful for all who showed up and shared.

Robin Atkins  
July 10, 2020



Robin's amulet, front and back





Amulet in process



## Want to Add More Creativity to the Roche Harbor Sculpture Garden?

There's a wonderful sculpture garden in Port Angeles. It's called "Webster's Woods—A Place to Discover—An ongoing conversation between art and nature." Francie Hansen and I visited this wonderful woods last Fall. See for yourself at their website:

<http://www.pafac.org/websters-woods-sculpture-park.html>.

We came home and told David Jensen, the curator of our own sculpture garden at Roche Harbor, all about it. So he turned around and invited us to furnish these woods with our own creations.


Francie and I are eager to start making fun surprises for those who wander down the nature paths of Roche Harbor Sculpture Garden. Who would like to help us?

I've started a Pinterest Board called Sculpture Park if some of you would like to see what I'm thinking about. Kind of Andy Goldworthy-esque, but smaller. Beth Spadafora will be joining Francie and me. And Jason Munkres says he's interested. We intend to start ASAP and will be working Friday afternoons primarily.

If anyone else gets excited about this project, please contact me at [thornbush@rockisland.com](mailto:thornbush@rockisland.com) or call me at 360-622-9797 (phone number is wrong in the roster).



<p>The deadline for the Fall 2020 issue of <i>'tiles</i> is Oct. 3, 2020. Forward articles to Susan McBain at <a href="mailto:slmcbain@gmail.com">slmcbain@gmail.com</a>. 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 <a href="mailto:robin@robinatkins.com">robin@robinatkins.com</a>. Deadline for inclusion in the Roster is October 31.</p>
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