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THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN JUAN COUNTY TEXTILE GUILD

Fall 2023

ALL ISLAND MEETING

October 28, 2023 via ZOOM

Zoom link will be sent out a few days before the meeting

1:00 -3:00PM

Agenda

1:00-2:00 – Business meeting

2:00-3:00 – Speaker Polly Adams Sutton

Featured Speaker

Polly Adams Sutton – sculptural basketry artist



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The San Juan Island Textile Guild is pleased to welcome back sculptural-basketry artist Polly Adams Sutton as our speaker. She will share stories and baskets from a trip to the island of Sardinia where she spent time in 2013 and share some of her wonderful basketry work. The talk should be informative and lively. We will be introduced to a new creative culture and have a chance to see many beautiful new baskets.

Several years ago, we were fortunate to have the Seattle-based artist present her talk about gathering and preparing the luscious native Washington cedar that she uses for her baskets. This talk about Sardinia should be every bit as inspiring and wonderful.

Polly is a nationally recognized, award-winning artist who has exhibited in museums and galleries throughout the United States, and in numerous one-person and prestigious group shows, including the Renwick Gallery (Smithsonian) in Washington, D.C. and in traveling National Basket Organization exhibitions. Her work is also in the permanent collection of many museums, notably the Museum of Fine Arts Boston. In addition, one of her baskets was featured on the cover of the popular book *500 Baskets*.

And on November 4-5 Polly will be teaching a new in-person basket workshop. A few spaces are still open for attending.

See the flyer in this newsletter for more information and how to sign up for the workshop.

ALL ISLAND BUSINESS MEETING

In addition to the reports from all the committees, we will be voting on some important items.

1. The by-laws have been revised to quantify quorums, financial proposals and the role of vice president. There will be a vote to accept this proposal.
2. Nominees for the two open positions for the next year will be presented along with a call for any nominations for people from the floor.
Currently we have –
Elizabeth McCubbin running for president
Karol McLuen running for Vice President
Elections will be held to fill these open positions.
3. Treasurer Elise Jensen and the board will be presenting a budget for the next calendar year and an election to approve this budget will be held.

It is very important that you join the meeting. We need to have a quorum of 28 to pass the proposals.

The presentation will be wonderful. I have seen a couple of pictures, and it may give you a travel bug in addition to inspiring your creativity. I look forward to “seeing” you all there.

Karol McLuen

The San Juan County Fair Recap 2023

The San Juan County Fair is funny, in that it's simultaneously always the same, and never the same. I know it doesn't really make sense, but that is kind of how I think about it. Same Woolshed, but with a new look. In fact, a few of the other buildings had been remodeled or repurposed that gave the fairgrounds a new feel. Another fantastical Kevin Roth sculpture, but always something you could never imagine. New online entry system, but plenty of folks relying on the old-style hand-written tags. Lots of the same familiar faces, but always new ones. There is something comforting in all the Fair's familiarity, and always something new to look forward to.



For the Woolshed, we decided the same old space needed a makeover. We had the old bleachers removed and divided the space into alcoves. Mimi Anderson took all of our old Woolshed sheets and turned them into pleated curtains that we used to line the alcoves. It really gave the display a more professional look and gave visitors a more intimate and close up view of the entries. I guess the Fair Board liked it, too - we got an award for our Fiber Arts display! (Not to boast, but I would like to point out that our department has won awards four out of the past five years.)

For our display, we seemed to be back at our pre-pandemic levels. We had a total of 127 Entries (up from 75 last year) and a total of 64 exhibitors. And despite some ferry service being cancelled during the fair, we still had exhibitors from Shaw, Orcas, Lopez and San Juan Islands.



Here are the Fiber Arts Awards for 2023:

Best in Show

Elise Jensen Sleeveless Pullover

Best in Class Awards:

I. Hand Spinning	Tara Wilding	Alpaca Targhee Mohair Skein
III. Hand Knitting - Commercial Yarns	Laura Evans	Blue Beaded Capelet
VII. Crochet - Commercial Yarns	Coral Wilson	Crochet Rainbow-colored Parasol
IX. Hand Weaving - Commercial Yarns	Mimi Anderson	Vest
X. Felting	Elanor Gislason	Felted Otter "Otter Goes Fishing"
XI. Miscellaneous Fiber Techniques	Teri Cooter	Nettle Fiber
XII. Basketry	Silvie Coffett	Lavender Stem Coiled Basket
XIII. Special Project		
- Designed From Beginning To End	Elise Jensen	Sleeveless Pullover
XIV. Youth Division	Sophia Ramirez	Mustard Yellow Knitted Tanktop

Special Awards:

Sally Bill Memorial Award	Hannah Boehm	Aran Blanket
Judy Packard Knitting Award	Elise Jensen	Cardigan Special Project
Judge's Special Award	Valarie Keaton	Cloudy Day Cuddle Sox
Judge's Special Award	Heidi Kuhiem	Felted "Sheep Skin"

People's Choice Awards:

Wednesday:	Mara Lawrence	Felted Moth Wings
Thursday:	Jeanie Fodor	Painted Bricks Shawl
Friday:	Coral Wilson	Crocheted "Toxic Toadstool"
Saturday:	Mary Blevins	Blue and Green Knitted Shawl

There were also notable awards from Guild members in other departments. Mimi Anderson won Best in Show in Textile Arts, for her dress, "Aleta's Secret", and Elizabeth McCubbin won both People's choice and Judge's Special Award in Creative Arts for her sculpture "A Wish III", that included 1,000 paper cranes and at least as many beads. Congratulations to all the award winners!

And, as usual, we had a full courtyard schedule with lots of events and demonstrations. This year's courtyard theme was organized by Lee McEnery and focused around fiber processing. Many of our Guild's spinners were out there every day carding and spinning. On Saturday, Sara Pope from the Fleece Department brought some of her sheep to be sheared. We finished more spinning and carding, and Val White brought her loom and wove some of the yarn spun earlier in the week. We also had a variety of demonstrations during the week, including making cordage from plant materials, rug making using raw fleece on a peg loom (I had to look up what that was), and natural dyeing using walnuts and lichen.



Val White weaving in the Courtyard

One of my favorite stories from this year was about a man who visited the Courtyard (the one in the photo with Mary). He wanted to learn all about how the yarn was made - the teasing, the carding, the spinning, the weaving. I think he just happened upon the event, but was captivated. More than that, he returned the Woolshed later that evening as we were about to close up. This time he had brought with him family members and he was excitedly showing them the carders and spinning wheels that had been brought in from the courtyard, explaining in detail how they all worked. They also spent a long while enjoying Sue Stanley's Salish Woolly Dog exhibit. It was the perfect complement to the equipment, showing the fiber to yarn to fabric. It was after 8 pm and we were closed, but there was no way I was going to rush them out. It was the perfect moment and all I could think was, "We made this happen."



Mary Miller getting help with the drum

And by "We", I mean all of you who made this happen. Sure, the superintendents are "in charge", but it's the hard work of Guild members, without which we could not bring it all together every year. So, a huge thank you is in order for all of our volunteers. Special thanks to Val Keaton and Elizabeth McCubbin as my Co-Superintendents. And to Elizabeth and Julie Packard for taking on the Sales Booth. And To Mimi Anderson for using her expert sewing skills to really spiff up the Woolshed. And to the exhibit team of Val, Mimi, Liz Pillow and Jeannie Naiman for making the most of our new layout. And to Barb Fagan for stepping in at the last minute to host our judge for the night. And to Laura Evans and Lois Moore who stayed well past their shifts to help with a marathon judging session. And to Lee McEnery, the mastermind behind this year's Courtyard events. And to Robin Atkins, Jeanie Fodor, and Jeannie Naiman, who made a second home in the Sales Booth and the Woolshed. And, the same as every year, we couldn't have made this happen without all of our volunteers.

And we'll be doing this all again next year. But it will probably be different.

Jason Munkres
Fiber Arts Superintendent

Workshop and Retreat Report

Workshop Coming Soon!

A **Cedar Basket workshop** taught by Polly Adams Sutton will be held on November 4-5th. Polly has been with us many times before as a speaker, a juror, and a teacher of several Guild workshops. It will be such a pleasure to have her back with us again.

Look for a separate flyer about the workshop and how to sign up for it in this issue of Tiles. And sign up now!! Get in touch with Heiki Lopez if you have any questions.

Polly will also be the speaker at our October meeting on Zoom. More on that in this issue as well.

And Some HUGE News about the Upcoming Textile Guild Retreat

For at least the fourth time, plans for the 2024 Retreat have been upended! And once again things are changing! However, we think that you may be pleased with the results.

The date will stay the same! It will still take place on **May 17-19**, a beautiful time of the year. **Seiko Purdue** will still present an exciting program for Guild members. But the venue has had to change. As of this writing, we will now be meeting at **The Grange** in Friday Harbor.

This is what happened. Due to the Sourdough Fire in the Cascades, our retreat location the North Cascades Institute had to be evacuated in July. They are now coping with a lengthy and expensive clean up. Sadly, as a result, they have had to cut staff, hours and programming. So the May date is no longer available to us.

Rather than trying to find a hole in Seiko's busy schedule that would fit the limited options open to us by the Institute, we decided to honor our commitment to her, to keep the date the same and to move the Retreat to San Juan Island.

We are still looking at this as a weekend Retreat, and have begun to plan some festive activities. The spirit of being in Retreat together will remain intact and it will strengthen our Guild community. Plus it will be fun!

Details will emerge in time, and we'll keep you up to date. One thing to know is that there will still be time to relax, to enjoy each other's company, and to work on individual projects.

The good news is that it will be accessible to many more Guild members. And the cost will be way less than it would have been. That cost is unknown at this time, but we'll let you know more as things unfold.

Seiko Purdue, who was our speaker at the April meeting, will present a wonderful workshop. Many Guild members saw her show in Bellingham and said it was amazing. On Saturday she will teach us to make stencils (Katagami). And on Sunday, we'll finish the process by learning an indigo dyeing technique.

If you are traveling to San Juan, you will be housed by another member at no extra cost.

Payment:

No need to send a deposit right now.

But please let us know if you are planning on attending.

Send an email to Susan Bradford at susanb452@gmail.com

Thanks to everyone for your patience, flexibility and understanding!

The Retreat Committee

Susan Bradford
Barbara Fagan
Jean Henson
Valarie Keaton
Karol McLuen

Cedar Basket Workshop

By Polly Adams Sutton

November 4 &5, 2023, at The Grange, Friday Harbor

There are a few spaces available for what is sure to be a fun-filled weekend learning with Polly Adams Sutton. We will be making **TWO** cedar baskets with the meticulously prepared Northwest materials that Polly will provide us. Come and discover the lash fold flip border with a special ending!

Workshop Fee: \$130-160 + \$130 Materials (\$75 deposit required)

Use the attached form to sign up or if you have any questions, get in touch with Heidi Lopez.

Text or phone: 360 317-4123 Email: lopez@rockisland.com



Basket Workshop by Polly Adams Sutton
Saturday and Sunday November 4-5, 2023, The Grange, Friday Harbor

Name: _____

Phone: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

A non-refundable deposit of \$75 is required. Make checks payable to SJCTG.

Mail to:

**Heidi Lopez
5302B Westside Road
Friday Harbor, WA 98250**