

# 'tiles

THE NEWSLETTER OF THE SAN JUAN COUNTY TEXTILE GUILD

Winter 2024

## President's Message:

*Elizabeth McCubbin*

I am relatively new to the Guild and to the San Juan Islands. It was less than 2 years ago that I moved to this beautiful place. During this time, I have been welcomed and amazed by every member of this immensely creative Guild. I'm honored to be part of such an artistic and accomplished community. The islands are full of talent and the Guild is a reflection of that. I love working and playing with this creative and wonderful group of people! I encourage all of you to immerse yourself in the knowledge, creativity, and camaraderie of this group by fully participating in all that the guild has to offer.

How do you begin? Take classes, share your knowledge, give a mini-demo at the island meetings, or teach a class to help others grow. Invite your friends and relatives to a meeting and encourage them to join. With each person, there are more ideas and energy. We have several opportunities coming up in the coming months.

Educator, librarian, and fiber artist Meagan Condon is our featured speaker for the All Islands Meeting January 20th via Zoom. She will give a lecture on the science of fiber: "Why Does Wool Do That?".



My Three Sons

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The spinning group is meeting at the San Juan library all winter and everyone is welcome. Bring your spinning wheel or spindle and join in. Woven in Pandamia is continuing into 2024. Come spend some time with your Guild friends every other Monday at 3:00. Share what you've been working on or just tell us what you're making. The meetings are easy-going, fun and informative, and they really do weave us together. This is a wonderful all-island event.

Valarie Keaton is giving A beginner's Zentangle Method® workshop on February 11, that includes a fun Valentine's Day project. May 18 to 19 is Katagami/Katazome with Professor Seiko Purdue. She was an amazing speaker last year. It is a real treat that she is coming back to our Guild for a two-day workshop. November 2-3 Polly Adams Sutton is back by popular demand after her successful 2023 workshop. Look for more information soon!

And it is never too early to think about the fair in August! So, spend some time in your studios creating wonderful art to represent our group to the community. Would you like to do a demonstration or give a talk about your area of expertise? Let's share the amazing things that this group has to offer.

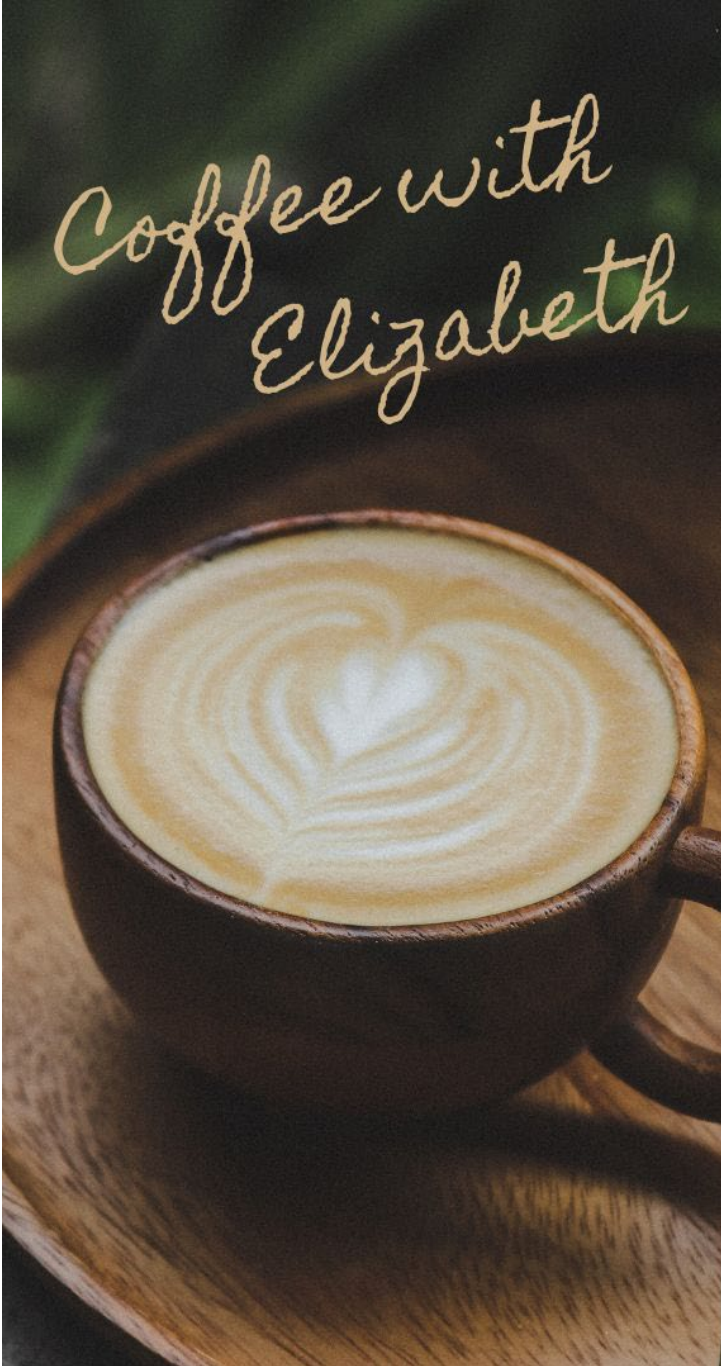
I would like to add a special thank you to Valarie Keaton and her partner Paul for all the hard work they put in designing and launching the new website. Learning about and participating in all the Guild activities has become streamlined and so much easier. All the events listed above can be found on the calendar with links to obtain more information and to register for events, if applicable. The new site is beautiful and their contribution of time and expertise is very appreciated!

And a special thank you to Karol McLuen for her mentorship. I would be lost without her extensive insight and knowledge. The changes she made as President will make moving forward with more classes, activities, and adventures so much more achievable. Wishing all a joyous and creative 2024.

Elizabeth's creation 'My Three Sons', shown on Page 1, is housed at the Beaded Art Museum in Portland, Main. The one shown below, titled 'A Wish II' is housed at Community Medical Center Cancer Center in Missoula, Montana.



A Wish II



Coffee with  
Elizabeth

JOIN ME FOR COFFEE  
AND CONVERSATION.

DO YOU HAVE IDEAS  
FOR THE FAIR?  
CLASSES, SPEAKERS  
OR OTHER GUILD  
ACTIVITIES?

JOIN ME FOR A HOT  
BEVERAGE AND TELL  
ME ALL ABOUT IT!

JAN 25TH, FEB 6TH  
AND FEB 21  
SAN JUAN ISLAND  
ROASTERS AT 10 AM

## **A New Year and a New Website for San Juan County Textile Guild**

*Valarie Keaton*

Happy New Year Everyone!

I suspect your holidays have been hectic, but now that January is upon us I hope you will take the time to look around our new website. We have a new look and a new website address: <https://sjctextileguild.wildapricot.org/> You may have already registered and created your own password. If so, thank you for taking the time and doing it during such a busy time of year. If not, now that you're here to read the newsletter, please linger and explore.

As of today a little better than half of you have already gone online and paid your 2024 dues. You have my respect and appreciation! My husband, Paul and I worked hard to get everything set up and we are hoping that it will make communication and administrative tasks easier for everyone in the guild.

You can now update your own guild member listing, pay your dues online, register for and pay for workshops online, and look up members and their contact information online (and maybe even see pictures of their work) if you have taken the time to register and create your own password.

Members can upload up to three albums or 50 photos each. This allows you to share photos of your work with other members and also will give Anita plenty of good content for our annual photo journals. I hope you will take the time to upload some photos including a picture of yourself in the Avatar field in your member profile. All member profile information is protected. Only members with passwords will be able to see our Members section.

Our quarterly newsletter will also be distributed on the website in the Newsletter section. Whenever it comes out you will hear from Nirmela with a link to the newest newsletter. As you will see you can also access several years of newsletters if you want to look back.

You will find all our meetings and workshops listed in the Events sections. You will be able to easily register yourself and pay for workshops on our site as well. I am really excited about this new addition to our online services.

Our email list will always be up to date and sortable by interests. I am hoping that we will be able to refine the way we use the site over the next year to have more and better communication between guild members. The site is also going to make the guild's administrative tasks much easier to manage.

Your feedback and ideas about the new site are welcome. We want to make it as user friendly and useful for all our guild members as we can. If you haven't already paid your dues... go do it online right now!

## Workshop Committee Report, January 2024

Workshop Committee: Susan Bradford, Barb Fagan, Jean Henson, Valarie Keaton, Karol McLuen

The Workshop Committee has awakened and is getting active once again after a very long hibernation. And there are some wonderful workshops in store for us all in 2024.

But first just a word about our fabulous NEW website. A longer explanation about its many advantages appears in this issue of Tiles. But how it pertains to workshops and future events is quite elegant. Just go to the website, sign up and pay in advance. One easy step!

If there is a fee for materials, it will still be due on the day of the workshop and will go directly to the instructor.

Here's what we know so far (details to be filled in soon):

### ValenTangle with Valarie Keaton

Sunday, February 11

Mullis Senior Center, Friday Harbor

11am - 4:30pm



Zentangle Workshop Fee – \$75.00  
(Includes all supplies for the workshop)

A beginner's Zentangle Method® workshop that includes a fun Valentine's Day project. Join us to learn about the creative, relaxing and fun world of Zentangle drawings. Contact Susan Bradford for more information: [susanb452@gmail.com](mailto:susanb452@gmail.com)

This workshop has already been listed on the website. So you can sign up **now!**

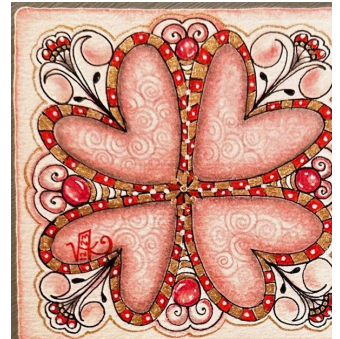
### Katazome dyeing and Katagami stencils with Seiko Purdue

Saturday and Sunday, May 18-19

Saturday at The Grange; Sunday at Karol McLuen's

Saturday 10am-3:30pm; Sunday 10am-2pm

Workshop Fee - \$95.00  
(Materials fee is \$30 due the day of the workshop)



Seiko gave an inspiring presentation at our April meeting and now we are delighted that she is coming to teach us about this traditional art form and how to use it. Contact Karol McLuen for more information: [mcjjak@gmail.com](mailto:mcjjak@gmail.com)

### Indigo Workshop with Katey Rissi

In September, but no date yet.

Alchemy Art Center, San Juan Island

Details for this workshop will be forthcoming in the near future, but trust that it will be a wonderful opportunity and can open up other possible connections at this venue. In the meantime, contact Valarie Keaton for more information: [valariekeaton@gmail.com](mailto:valariekeaton@gmail.com)

### **Sculptural Cedar Basket with Polly Adams Sutton**

Saturday and Sunday, November 2-3

The Grange, Friday Harbor

Back by popular demand after her successful workshop this Fall. A project will be decided on soon, and we'll let you know. Contact Heidi Lopez for more information:

[heidihilfikerlopez@gmail.com](mailto:heidihilfikerlopez@gmail.com)



### **Knitting Workshop?**

Julie Packard is looking for an interesting workshop to present. If you have anyone in mind or an idea of what you want to learn, let her know. Contact Julie at: [julie@islandwools.com](mailto:julie@islandwools.com)

## Our Island Community

Elizabeth McCubbin

In the spirit of knowledge, creativity, and island community I am starting a section of the newsletter that involves other community events and classes that Guild members may be interested in. I will keep an ongoing list for each newsletter this year. If you know of an organization with events that may spark our Guild's interest, please send me the information so I can add it to the next newsletter.

### Island Rec:

Visiting artist series starting Feb and running through May. Classes offered include basket weaving, candle making, driftwood macrame wall hangings and macrame plant hangers. or more information: <https://www.islandrec.org/adult/>

### Alchemy Art Center:

Classes in February and march include Making natural Art, Screen Printing For Beginners, Visible Mending & Creative Altering, Creative Natural Dye Practice and Open studio Creative Art Nights. For more information : <https://www.eventbrite.com/cc/printmaking-and-fiber-art>

### San Juan Island Library:

Knitting Underground every Thursday For more information:

<https://live-sanjuan.pantheonsite.io/event/knitting-underground-2065>

### San Juan Islands Museum of Art

Artist's Registry Show Dec 15-Feb 26

For more information:

<https://www.sjima.org/artist-registry-show-submissions-1>



The Wise One by Susan Williams (mixed media)

## Make your Own Woven Wool Rug

*Lee and Heidi McEnergy*

Curly Goat Studio (Heidi) is offering a peg loom rug class in February on San Juan Island and they would love to share the experience with you! Together you will be making a chunky woven wool rug from local fleece (about 2'x3' when finished). The size and coziness are perfect for a bedside, bathroom, or sitting room rug. All materials will be provided and you don't need to have any experience weaving or working with wool; everyone is welcome.

The looms are custom made by Heidi and are available to rent or purchase after class if you're interested in continuing with peg loom weaving. It's a super simple set up and they are small, portable, and can be used with many different materials including raw wool, fabric strips, yarn, or really anything that's long and flexible.

To register or with questions email [curlygoatstudio@gmail.com](mailto:curlygoatstudio@gmail.com).

**MAKE YOUR OWN  
WOVEN WOOL  
RUG**

**NO EXPERIENCE NECESSARY  
ALL MATERIALS PROVIDED - LOCAL WOOL!  
LOOMS AVAILABLE FOR PURCHASE**

**SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 3  
9AM-4PM  
\$225 - 4 SPACES  
SAN JUAN ISLAND**

FOR REGISTRATION EMAIL: [CURLYGOATSTUDIO@GMAIL.COM](mailto:CURLYGOATSTUDIO@GMAIL.COM)  
@CURLYGOATSTUDIO  
360-317-3786



## Fiber Retreats with Deb Robson

*Julie Packard*

In November, Deb Robson, co-author of the Fleece and Fiber Sourcebook, hosted two Fiber Retreats at Lakedale Resort on San Juan Island. She has been putting together these retreats since 2012, following the suggestion of Cat Bordhi. I was lucky to take part in the 2<sup>nd</sup> retreat this November. Usually, she hosts just one week in March and one week in November. Since the topic this fall was a particularly popular one, she decided to do two 4-day retreats. For 4 days, we went on a deep dive of the history of Shetland sheep in North America.

We learned that primarily, the first Shetland sheep arrived in Canada in 1980. Those initial sheep were locked to the specific farm in Ontario Canada for at least 5 years after their arrival and their offspring would also be bound to that farm for at least 5 years. A 2<sup>nd</sup> farm in Canada was discovered to also have Shetland sheep, having imported them back in 1948. Not all of those sheep were verifiable as 100%, but those that were able to trace their lineage back, were eligible for listing with the North American Shetland Sheep Association. All Shetland sheep in North America owe their heritage to these first 2 herds of sheep. Additional genetic diversity was introduced in the 2000's by way of artificial insemination using sperm from the UK.



In North America, there are 2 Shetland Sheep societies. First off, is the North America Shetland Sheep Association (NASSA), formed in 1993. They are the first society and the largest. Secondly, there is the Fine Fleece Shetland Sheep Association (FFSSA) which was formed in 2010.

Lois Moore moved to San Juan Island with the last 11 of her flock of Shetlands (Stonehaven Farm, NASSA flock #629). She gave those Shetlands to Angie Shephard of Blacktail Bass & Beef (also known as Stillwater Ranch), a farm off of Wold Rd. After having Suffolks, BFLs, Romneys, Shetlands, and Angora Goats, Angie decided to focus her energies on raising the Shetlands and Suffolks. She now has 19 Shetlands. She has a new ram, and he is being bred to 6 ewes, so we're hoping for a flock of new babies this spring. Many Shetland ewes have twins, triplets, or a few even have quadruplets. There will be San Juan Shetland fleece and yarn for sale in the future!



We learned that Shetland fleece can be superfine, as fine as Merino. Shetlands come in eleven different colors, and 30 different patterns and markings. The variety is truly wonderful. One participant had brought a sample of a Shetland fleece that she had purchased that had an average measurement of a tiny 14 microns. As soft as Grade A Cashmere. Most Shetland fleece is under 30 microns (which puts it in the next-to-skin softness category). You can purchase fleeces online from a variety of Shetland farms here in the US.

Deb provided us with a dozen or more samples of fleeces from a variety of Shetland sheep. From a Shetland sheep that is living in Shetland and is listed in the Shetland Flock Book (one of 2 UK registries), to Shetlands from around the US and Canada (including from a sheep on the original farm in Ontario, Canada). It was fun to play with the different fleeces and investigate their differences.

Oh, and did I mention how cute the Shetland sheep is? At the size of a large (or extra large) dog (ewes range from 75-100 pounds, and rams from 90-150) they are a very manageable size and the rams, in particular, can be very friendly. Sometimes they can be standoffish, but once they get to know and trust you, they enjoy being with you. We visited Angie and her farm and were delighted to have a couple of lambs and their mom eating out of our hands.

If you are ever interested in joining in for a retreat by Deb Robson, check out her website to sign up. <https://independentsitch.com/>

There are also retreats held at Lakedale Resort that are hosted by Sivia Harding, a knitwear designer based in Portland, Oregon. You can find out more about her retreats at her website. <https://www.siviaharding.com>



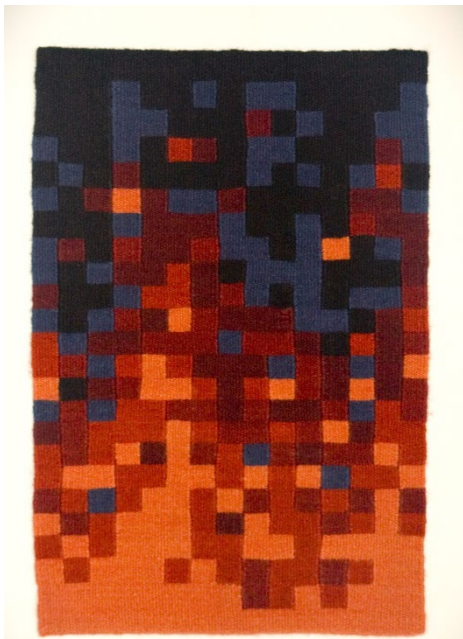
## **Guild Members at the Museum**

*Jason Munkres*

The annual Artists' Registry Show at the San Juan Islands Museum of Art is on display now through February 26, 2024. The show features works from about 100 artists throughout the San Jun Islands. Three Textile Guild members have works in the show:



Julie Weaver - "Brownie and Sarah on Pemiqid River", Felting wool and thread



Jason Munkres - "Campfire", Hand-dyed wool, cotton



Dana Alkebu-Lan - "Layers of Love", driftwood, wool and cotton yarn, and silk

The museum is open Friday to Monday 11 a.m. – 5 p.m., and it is located at 540 Spring Street in Friday Harbor. 360-370-5050.

### What is New in Your Creative Life?

*Nirmela Arsem*

It is never too early to start working on your next article for the 'Tiles. As we look forward to spring, please think of sharing your ideas, activities and new creations with Guild members. If you visit a show that impresses you, I am sure the rest of us would like to know about it as well.



Cookies too good to eat



JOY



Ephemeral JOY

Here are some memories from our holiday get together on December 15, 2023. Many thanks to Karol for opening her home to the Guild members.



CONCEPTS WANTED  
FOR A 2024 ALL  
GUILD PROJECT.

BRING YOUR IDEAS  
TO THE ALL GUILD  
MEETING JANUARY  
20TH!