

PenWAG Rag

**Marcia Manzo & Leilani Bennett
Co-Presidents**



**Felted coats Love Note
Marty Manzo**

For a couple of years people have been bringing me old wool sweaters, and I've



collected some from thrift shops as well. They were felted immediately and most have sat in a rather huge plastic bag while others have

taunted me on every available surface in the studio.

Some of the sweaters went into garments in combination with wool pieces early on. There are still loads to be used.

This time of isolation has found me clueless as to a project. The muse has left the studio, the witch. I finally started cutting the sweaters into 4.5" strips and began piecing a blanket. Many of the sweaters are cashmere and the blanket is soft and cuddly. The blanket, however had another idea and kept yelling at me 'I'm a coat, you ding bat'. So a coat it is to be.

These pictures are actually the second of these coats to be made, but because they are my colors, it will be finished first. So the pix are of the stacks of cut strips, the pieces stripped for the two fronts, one of the pieces on the cutting table the next with the pattern atop and the last is the front on my gal.

I can now see the cabinet tops in the sewing room and have a small pile of odds and ends. Some day I shall vacuum and they will have to be dealt with. Hugs to you all.

Jacket Love Note *Ruth Lincoln s*

I started this jacket on May 9, 2019, next came the back surgery from hell and that delayed progress for about 10 months. To start, I deconstructed a vintage kimono purchased as part of a bundle. I sewed parts of it back together -- trying to match the patterns. I used a favorite jacket pattern (Vogue 8937 - Very Easy). Marty recommends using a single pattern several times - once you get it tailored for you. I had to piece the left front due to fabric limitations; I disguised the seam by fusing a floral motif over the seam and zigzagged the edges. I made custom facing and lining patterns (à la Leilani). The lining is black charmeuse, the facings are black dupioni. The jacket is underlined with dark colored flannel to give the jacket more body. I applied Hong Kong bindings using black dupioni and a cotton Asian stripe fabric for the narrow strip. I closed the jacket with large snaps and black jet buttons.



Bootsie

You all gotta send me items, links and photos for the newsletter or there won't be one next time!!

Tentatively we have left activities starting in October in place. Subject to change of course, but PenWAG is hoping for the best.

Calling all **Grandmas, Aunties and home-schooling moms:**

Linda Campbell contributed this

<https://www.chicoer.com/2020/05/18/queen-of-crafts-how-a-school-teacher-is-mending-boredom-with-art/>



Calling all Bay Area Artists!

In celebration of the **de Young Museum's** 125th anniversary, **the Fine Arts Museums of San Francisco** is hosting **The de Young Open**, a juried community art exhibition welcoming submissions by artists who live in the nine Bay Area counties: Alameda, Contra Costa, Marin, Napa, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Clara, Solano, and Sonoma. Deadline is

June 14

The de Young Open continues the museum's longstanding tradition of engaging the local community and showcasing the talent of Bay Area artists, who will be able to offer their pieces for sale and retain 100 percent of the proceeds.

<https://deyoung.famsf.org/exhibitions/de-young-open>



Niece's Crochet Love Note

Sherrri Tafel

I didn't know this was a thing! My niece has learned to crochet during this isolation and has worked up these movie stars. Gizmo from Gremlins and the monster from Alien. I like the crocheted versions; Alien, the movie was terrifying.

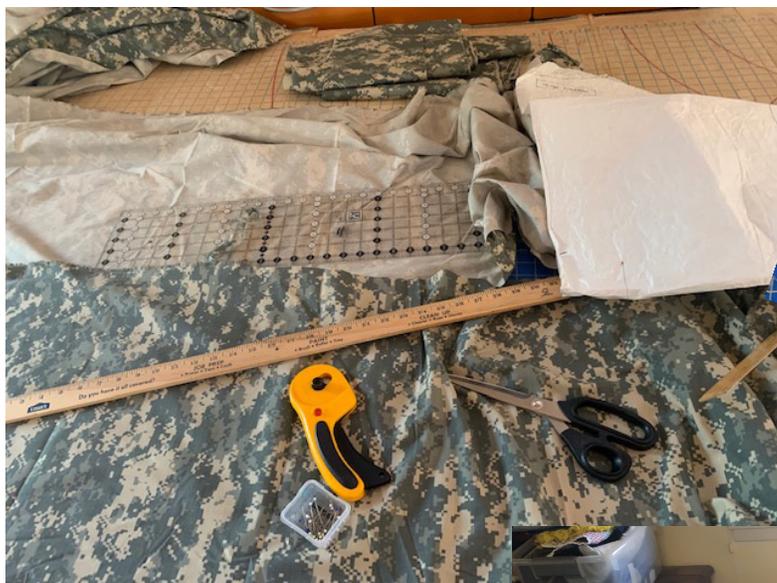
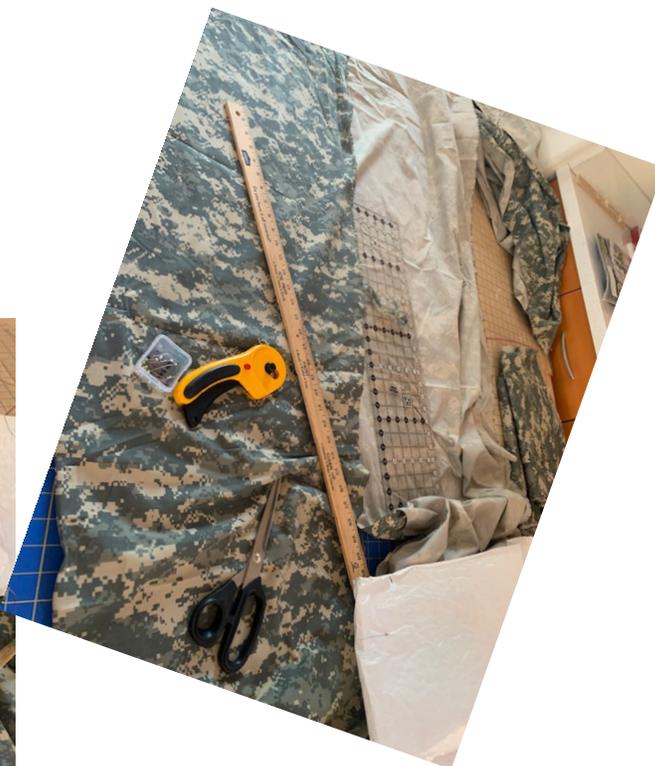


We are still

<https://www.sewing4good.org/>

Judi Seip's cutting and Lenore Kelly's sewing room is full of clutter (note cat sleeping on pile of fabric cuttings).

If you are sewing gowns or masks, send photos to Lenore@penwag.org.





A love note from Geneva Sanjideh

I started off this year with fabulous plans. My motto for the year? Down size - up scale. One closet completely empty. (What did we want with five old, heavy suitcases?) Next use up what I have – no going into a fabric store. Good size box ready to donate to PenWAG’s next sale. Some tiny bits and pieces I’ll do small stitch meditations on. Then I saw a small needle case and the light bulb lit. With plans to make one for each of people attending Ashland, Oregon D.O.L. in October. Once again life got in the way of my fun.

Instead, Number 31 mask just completed. Hemmed several pairs of pants (due to shrinking with age – mine). Taken in a jacket. Cut off two blouses. Tossed out expired food cans and re-stocked earthquake kit. Played games on zoom with children and grandchildren until my computer sent signals it was going to erase a couple of years. So much for two back-up systems!

Sewing has been a life saver until -E-I-failure. At least the sewing machine repair is open to drop off and pick up, plus I have the small Janome for travel. What will I do with a box of small needle cases if October fails? The post office is still open and I’ll be mailing.

Meanwhile, just finished a watercolor on the back side of a jigsaw puzzle and re-read 10 books to donate to library that doesn’t take them. Box #2 is in the garage. This life has reminded me of my grandmother. A treadle sewing machine and lots of hand needlework. Even after T.V.’s, she would still be sitting at the sewing machine, feet on the pedal. A salute to her for teaching me to sew.



Wall Hanging - Update #2

Love note from *Leilani Bennett*

Well, I must admit that not a heck of a lot has happened to this project since our last issue--I'd like to blame it on all sorts of extenuating circumstances but truth be told, I spent much of the last two weeks ricocheting between a miasma of funk to complete inertia.

Thanks to modern medicine and really good advice I think I'm back to my old self. (OK, that's roundabout way of saying I'm having online sessions with a wonderful shrink and combined with some good meds that have finally kicked in--life is good again.)

Photo #1 is my second completed background block (four more to go!) and photo #2 is yards of woven tape ready for the dye bath. Now I know you surface design pros are at the very least chuckling heartily about the Rit dyes. I've never claimed to be a surface designer and you may scoff to your hearts' content.

And this afternoon I'm going to the post office to pick up a transfer pen I ordered.

I know you are wondering: Woven tape? Dye bath? Transfer pen? Aha! You will just have to keep tuning in to Lenore's biweekly love letter blasts to find out if there is method to my madness. So, until then, keep creating, keep happy and stay safe! I miss you all so much!



Are you having trouble remembering what day it is? An empty calendar is a new experience for meInitially viewed with considerable concern. Eight weeks later, I have learned the importance of:

- Maintaining a regular daily routine of getting dressed,taking a walk, and spending a few hours working on a project that I really enjoy is essential. Sitting around in pajamas watching Covid19 news is bad for body and soul.
- Relaxing for a few hours daily is doing wonders for my blood pressure (which had been edging steadily into the red zone). Also, my muse is slowly showing herself from time to time.

Sheltering at home is giving me a “time-out” from a busy routine and a chance to experience life without a full calendar. Although I miss my shows (and income), customers, vendor friends, hair stylist, and fitness center, I have learned that an empty calendar is nothing to fear, thanks to my creative projects and various interests.

Since we need to wear masks, we might as well make them interesting, right? Initially, my mask making focused on filling a request from a day care center for 40 masks that “wouldn’t scare the children”. Fortunately, I had some pretty floral prints and bright colors in my stash for this purpose. Then, I offered a variety of free masks to my neighbors and was intrigued by their choices, i.e whimsical, bold graphics, subtle, etc. This was especially satisfying when thank you gifts in the form of baked goods began arriving on our doorstep. The internet information about mask making is abundant and sometimes confusing, Like most things, there is more than one way to achieve an objective. I was particularly interested in the following article about silk.



The American Chemical Society recently reported that a combination of cotton with natural silk provided protection to nearly that of a N95 mask. More info here: [sciencedaily.com](https://www.sciencedaily.com)

I made a few with my kimono silks, lined with cotton. Naturally, you could use a silk lining with an interesting cotton print; the silk feels wonderful against skin.

Masks made with cotton and decorated with paintstiks Paintstik embellishments are a great way to make really interesting and unique masks. Here’s a few using rubbing plates for texture. The fish

are from a stencil.

Since I always begin using paintstiks with a period of play/experimentation using approx.12” squares, it’s fun to use them in such a useful and decorative way.

Consider using orphan blocks, and UFO’s in your mask making....they are sure to be very unique and just the right thing to wear when quilt shows once again open!

25% OFF ONLINE STORE THROUGH May 21



inquiries on Quiltfest Vendors, please email mancuso@quiltfest.com.

1 Source Publications

108" Quilt Backings
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hwww.locksmithlizzie.com

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Quilting Momma

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www.quiltlily.com

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RacCoon Designs
etsy.com/shop/RaccoonDesigns

Rachel's Of Greenfield
www.rachelsofgreenfield.com

RaNae Merrill Quilt Design
ranaemerrillquilts.com

Rhinestone Genie
www.rhinestonegenie.com

Rita's Racques
www.rrulerrack.com

Rivers Edge www.riversedgefabric.com

Unfortunately, my fav bead store is going out of business. Boo-Hoo. For you, this means stuff is on sale. They have great fasteners and a good bead selection
<https://www.fusionbeads.com/>

Here is a fun sewer I found on you tube. Bernadette is especially interested in historical costuming
<https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCSHtaUm-FjUps090S7crO4Q>