

PenWAG Rag

Leilani Bennett & Marcia Manzo
Co-Presidents



Presidents' Thoughts . . .

This letter is going to ramble and I'll probably bounce around from one subject to another because that's what is happening in my head right now. So if you only like to read things that segue from one logical thought to another, you had better skip the following. It'll drive you nuts.

I just finished viewing a conversation with Kaffe Fassett and his artist niece, Erin Lee Gaffill presented by our own wonderful San Jose Museum of Quilts and Textiles. I am gob-smacked! I am simultaneously paralyzed with my own insecurities as an artist when I compare myself to the amazing artists in Kaffe's family and yet filled with a creative adrenaline that I haven't experienced in months!

It occurs to me that this isolation I've been forced into since mid February (egads! Can you believe it's been nine effing months!) is a tremendous gift. When I think back to all the years when I was raising a family while usually working full time and I had to steal little bits of time to create, and now I have unlimited amounts of time and the freedom to create and what do I do? Little dribs and dabs of work among countless hours of Netflix and YouTube streaming.

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The YouTube streaming hasn't been a complete waste of time because it's an absolute treasure trove of every kind of music known to man. I've listened to my two passions—classical and jazz—into the wee hours of too many mornings. Who knew? But I digress. In our last

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column, Marcia and I asked for input from members on what you were missing from PenWAG and we wanted suggestions. Truth be told, we were disappointed—except for a handful of very thoughtful responses, we heard zip. So that either means you either are satisfied with the way things are or you don't give a rat's patootie.

One response, though, gave pause to serious thought. The member said she really disliked the whole zoom experience and chooses not to participate because she feels it's such an inadequate substitute for the "real thing". I understand her feeling. But the reality is it's the best we can do under the present circumstances. We continuously strive to make the zoom experience better each time we do it and we are so fortunate to have Kevin, Andrew and George (Michelle's husband, for those of you who haven't joined us) spend an inordinate amount of time doing just that.

That member suggested we try to meet in people's back yards. That isn't something we can do for a variety of practical reasons but there is absolutely no reason why small groups of members can't get together on their own for live interaction and show and tell. I say, go for it! Let us know how it's going and mentor other members who may want to try doing that. If someone wants to put together an outdoor group, let us know the details and we'll put out an email blast.

When Claire announced that she was going to be hosting Muse Zooms every third Monday evening of the month I was surprised, delighted and impressed that someone who still work full time and is very active in ASG would undertake yet another project.

The first meeting time rolled around and for one reason or another, I wasn't in the mood and almost didn't participate but knew I would feel guilty that I wasn't being supportive if I didn't. WOW! Would not joining in have been my loss. I can't tell you how great it was to see faces on the screen and hear voices that I hadn't heard since February. Members shared work they had done as a result of on-line classes taken during the lockdown; I was surprised at the quilting being done—interesting that we go back to familiar, comforting crafts at times like this. I guess that explains the satisfaction I am getting from all the tedious hand work on the large wall piece I've been sporadically working on. We had a great tour of Lenore's workroom/studio. It was a *fun* hour plus and I am so looking forward to this month's Muse meeting. Give it a try—we will miss you if you don't—participating in our new reality. It gets better each time.

Love to all of you and stay well! Leilani

Upcoming Programs @ Workshops

Program Chair

Michelle Paganini



November 12 Program: Laura Murray: Creating the Wow Factor

Laura Murray is a surface designer who uses one-of-kind fabrics in wearables, ranging from over dyed kimono panels and hand batiked silks to fabrics embellished with paintstick rubbings.

The first hour is devoted to garments featuring special fabrics, while Laura shares her design tips for success and problem solving strategies.

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November Program, Continued



Laura's last 30 minutes is a live demonstration on how to use paintstiks to transform plain fabric into extraordinary yardage.



Missing Show & Tell?

We are, too! So . . . (drum roll . . . December meeting will be a full blown Show and Tell via electronic slides. We're making it as easy as possible to show your fun creations. Here are instructions.

EASY INSTRUCTIONS TO SHOW OFF YOUR WORK:

Take a photo(s) with your cell phone.

Send the photo(s) to: showandtell@penwag.org

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When the complete slide show of photos is shown at our December 12 virtual meeting, your name and your creations will be featured. That's when it would be wonderful for you to verbally share information about your source, inspiration, methods, or anything else you would normally share at an in-person Show and Tell.

Judi Seip will collect the photos, handle any editing, lighting, cropping, etc. and include them in our full slide presentation.

If you have questions, you can send them to me at:

showandtell@penwag.org and I will respond to you directly.

January 2021 Program

Kay Khan

<https://www.patina-gallery.com/blogs/artists/kay-khan>

Hello Leilani and Marcia!

Thank you so much for your support with the \$500 scholarship! It came in a very crucial time when the doubt of continuing education in Fashion Design during the Covid quarantine situation crept in. The news of winning the PenWAG scholarship gave me wings to keep going!

Thank you so much for having the PenWAG going, your recognition and support! It means a lot!

In gratitude,

Lina Egutkina

Your Monday Muse

We held our first-ever "Monday Muse" on the third Monday of October, the 19th. We managed to have a wonderful time sharing for almost the full 90 minutes, including a quick lessons learned at the end to improve on our next session. Roughly 25 members attended. We had wonderful tech pointers, Q&A, and support in learning to use Zoom on our recently purchased PenWAG license which will accommodate up to 100 attendees. A few had to leave early for other engagements, but we hope more will join us **On the third Monday in November, the 16th, from 7PM-8:30PM.**

Some of the highlights: Several people shared garments, quilts, and accessory projects they have been working on. *Lenore Kelly* took us on a fabulous narrated Powerpoint slide tour of her recently remodeled sewing / beading / creative / office space with the whys and whats of her decisions regarding storage, machines, ergonomics, etc. We hope she will conduct a repeat tour at a future meeting for those who missed it in October. We are looking for volunteers to offer such tours or "how to's" by preparing their material to share and raising their hand when the meeting kicks off. We have not yet used the separate chat room feature, but we could divide into groups to conduct different discussions.

The opportunity is huge! All members will get a reminder email the weekend before the meeting which will contain the link to the "Monday Muse" Zoom meeting. *Andy* has developed a user tips screen shot which will be included in the email. You can join early or late and you don't need a password if you use the link in the email! Turn on your camera so that we can see you and have handy some of your "pretties" and perhaps a libation to keep you hydrated.

Claire

News, Tips & Wants

Ruth Ellen Saarinen resaarinen@comcast.net (415) 307-7579 says she has tried to donate clothing to a few local thrifts – turned down because clothes are older than 5 years and/or because thrifts are full. Hospice is full. Bloom (the local thrift that helps people reentering the workforce) was taking a huge load of nice-looking clothing to the dump yesterday. The line at Goodwill was a block and a half – but these aren't the best fit for Goodwill in my opinion. I do understand that Goodwill used to (and maybe still does) collaborate with thread recycle organizations overseas to make insulation and otherwise reuse non-sellable fiber items.

Anyway, here are some photos of the garments, **sizes 10-12**, and are predominantly wool – all the pants are pleated and full (no skinny pants). I live north of San Francisco, but would drive to the Peninsula to hand off to someone if they are interested. **FREE** to a good home. I don't know of a 'thread cycle' place where I am in Marin... there's got to be a use for some of this – some might be worth an upcycle person, other pieces (basic wool gabardine) maybe lining for something or cut in strips and used as stuffing for something? I really, really hate to just add to landfill –

- Solo skirt and 2 pants that have never been hemmed or worn
- Suits with long skirts (3)
- Suit with trousers (1) – Ralph Lauren
- Solo jackets (4, green is linen Geiger of Austria)
- Suits with short skirts – group one (4, second one in is linen right has matching trousers)

Suits with short skirts – group two (3, the gold is not wool and gold and red are interesting fabrics, blue is an Albert Nipon wool crepe)



What, Where & When

Meeting Time

PenWAG meets on the *second Saturday* of every month. Members will get an invitation to register for our Zoom meeting. See the newsletter at www.penwag.org for program information (there's a public copy available also).

Monday Muse

We are going to try an inspirational meeting for the third Monday of the month, 7:00—8:30 PM. See the newsletter article for details.

Facebook Page

If you like PenWAG, you can now “like” our *Facebook page*. Come see the pictures from the Show & Tell, and news about upcoming events. Click on the link to get there: <http://www.facebook.com/penwag> (you can look at this even if you don't have a Facebook account). *Lynnette Viste* and *Andy Trembley* are “admins” for the page. Let us know what you'd like to see! The PenWAG Board will help decide what is posted. Stay tuned as we continue to explore the world of social networking!

PenWAG Yahoo group discontinued

Yahogroups have been discontinued by the company hosting them.

In the event we establish a replacement, access will be found via the Members Only section of the PenWAG website, and announced in the newsletter.

Google Docs

We also have *Google apps* for nonprofits (for free) to store our documents in the cloud, e.g., newsletters and minutes. You can synchronize the *PenWAG Google calendar* with your calendar.

PenWAG website

www.penwag.org