

PenWAG Rag

Leilani Bennett & Marcia Manzo

Co-Presidents



Presidents' Thoughts. . . .

For some inexplicable reason, I've been feeling some degree of angst during the past year over the fact that I haven't produced anything significant despite having all the time in the world to do so. I know I'm not the only one feeling this way and for all my angst ridden bedfellows, let me share something I read recently that might help.

The Managing Editor of the Surface Design Association's Blog/Newsletter, wrote: "The pandemic is not an artist residency, and you shouldn't be expected to make great work during this time."

Now, I don't consider myself an artist but rather, a good craftsperson. The distinction between the two is subject to much debate and not likely to be definitively settled any time soon. I don't much care—I am a *maker*. Whichever you consider yourself to be, artist or craftsperson, or how others choose to label you makes no difference. The only thing that matters is that you find some particular satisfaction and joy in the *making*.

Which brings me to my original point, the angst or rather, the disappointment in myself for not putting all the lovely time of the past year to better use. What I'm really missing is the deep satisfaction of seeing a piece or project through from the initial germ of an idea niggling the little grey cells, through the problem solving of the design process, to ultimately the making.

I keep trying – I am happy with a recently completed small project of a sashiko triptych and I sporadically work away at the large wall piece for my son and daughter-in-law. I'm still working on completing the six 3-feet by 3-foot background panels—God I hate repetitive work! And I have enough ideas to last me another half lifetime.

Perhaps we, my fellow angst-ridden bedfellows and I, should stop worrying about this. Maybe if we cut ourselves some slack and quit our inner self-nagging, we just might find ourselves *making* more. I don't know. What do you think? Leilani

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Check out

[Ravelry: Home](#)

[\(990\) Pinterest](#)

[Sewcialists – A Sewing Blog for Everyone \(thesewcialists.com\)](#)

[male pattern boldness](#)

[Sashiko Folk Embroidery: a Japanese Art \(thesprucecrafts.com\)](#)

March Program

March 13, 2021
PenWAG Program



www.suziclick.com

Suzi Click

The Power of Adornment

Suzi Click Artisan Apparel & Accessories presents The Power of Adornment - a presentation of her evolution as a designer recognized for her own unique personal style using ethnic textiles.

Talking about her inspirations from an early age and throughout her career and how she now combines her passions for travel and textiles as she combs the world visiting women of traditional style and weavers in remote places to discover textile traditions that she feels need to be shown to the world.

She shows you how she takes these textiles and combines them in her work as a wearable art designer.

11:00 – 1:00 via Zoom

April 10, 2021
PenWAG Program
11:00 – 12:30 via Zoom

April Sproule
Make Your Mark With Textiles



April's work is all about color, texture, and the practice of enhancing textiles in any way possible.



April 10, 2021
PenWAG Workshop
2:00 – 5:00 via Zoom

April Sproule
Block Printing
on Fabric Possibilities



You will learn to create and transfer designs, carve a block, and print your own fabric using water-based, washable, permanent textile inks.

www.sproulestudies.com

April Workshop

Block Printing on Fabric

a workshop with

April Sproule

SPROULE STUDIOS



Supply List for Students

Email: aprilsp@sproulestudios.com

Phone: (707) 725-9124

Block printing on fabric is a perfect way to create beautiful handmade items with your own personal flair. This is a very easy technique that lends itself well to very simple and also more ornate designs.

You will learn to carve your own block and print your own fabric with a design of your choosing. Designs will be provided for your selection, but you are welcome to use an original design of your own as well. No experience is required, but it helps to look online for inspiration to find ideas that appeal to you.

- Rubber stamp carving material for 2-3 stamps : Speedball 91)
(1) Speedy Carve (pink), 6" x 12" , or Blick Ready cut from Dick Blick 8" x 10"
- Block carving tools: Speedball Linoleum Cutting Tool
- Roller/ Brayer: foam roller, not a hard plastic one
- Fabric Paint: Versatex Screen Printing Inks by Jacquard, or Speedball Fabric Screen Printing Inks, in one or two colors



Note: Do not buy Speedball Fabric Block Printing Ink

- Optional: fabric markers (washable) if you want to add addi-
- Fabric to print on: natural fiber, prewashed, 1/2 yard minimum. You can use pre-printed fabric if the design is not too busy.
- Something smooth to roll your ink out on:
- 8" x 10" minimum size, it can be a piece of glass, metal or Plexiglas like plastic material
- Scraps of fabric and or scratch paper to practice on
- Ruler, and an Xacto knife for cutting your blocks
- Regular pencil, black Ultra-Fine Point Sharpie, and a thicker one
- Tweezers, and a small stiff paint brush
- Designs will be provided for you to use in class, but you are welcome to use your own design



Note: For your convenience, I have set up a Course Materials page on the Dick Blick website. Please read on to the next page to clarify exactly what you need from them.

April Workshop, ctd.

If ordering from Dick Blick or shopping at one of their retail stores, I have listed options according to pricing and availability.

You will only need:

- One or the other of the Printing/Carving Blocks (the Blick Readycut are my favorite)
- One of the Brayers
 - the Speedball Brayer with a foam roller works best, but they only have it listed in the Kit with 4 rollers.
 - if you have a Speedball brayer handle already, just get the foam replacement roller
 - the Rollrite brayer works fine, but is not my first choice.

Current items and pricing: 1-17-21

If you are not able to find the items at your local art supply store, this is the list I set up for you on Dick Blick. I am not an affiliate.

You will be emailed a link to the Block Printing on Fabric Supply List on their site.

Item ID	Item Description	Price	Priority	Qty
Buy				
40422-0810	Blick Readycut Printing Blocks - 8" x 10"	\$7.16	Blick	
60283-1612	Speedball Speedy Carve Block - 6" x 12"	\$14.65	BLICK	
40112-0003	Speedball Pop-In Brayer Foam Replacement Roller	\$7.02	BLICK	
40112-1009	Speedball Pop-In Brayer Kit with 4 Rollers	\$33.65	BLICK	
40203-1009	Speedball Lino Set No. 1	\$10.21	BLICK	
43230-2025	Speedball Water-Base Textile Screen Printing Ink - Black, 8 oz	\$8.52	BLICK	
40102-1004	Rollrite Foam Brayer - 4"			

Resources for Supplies

Local art Supply Stores
Michael's
Dick Blick, online: www.dickblick.com

Design Resources for Block Ideas: April's Pinterest Boards

<https://www.pinterest.com/aprilsproule/block-printing/>
<https://www.pinterest.com/aprilsproule/prints-and-design/>

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions. My contact info is on the header of the first page.

April Sproule

May 8, Program, Zoom 11:00 - 12:30
Diane Ericson, Making a Life by Hand



MAKING a Meaningful Life- How to be ready?

Re-tooling our creativity can open the way: Join me to share ideas, strategies and inspiration for the the journey.

MAKING a Meaningful Life- Aging with a creative taproot and harvesting the gifts that continue unfolding in front of us, IS life offering itself to us. How to be ready? Re-tooling our creativity can open the way: Join me to share ideas, strategies and inspiration for the the journey.

Title: Making a Life by Hand

Description: Living my life rooted in creativity has never been more tested than in my recent past. Making meaning has always been what I require no matter what is in my hands. Making to understand the world. Making to grow my experience and skills and find balance is what my life is always about. The deeper I reach, the richer my life is. Having a diverse toolbox of making skills allows me to create choices that speak to what I need and want to share in the moment: Sometimes a more structured material like wood...sometimes textile...each calling me home in a unique voice. The gift of creativity is a bridge I am passionate to make in teaching and sharing with others. I look forward to sharing my process and work with you. Everything coming and going...life is always in motion...feeling change in me now reminds me there is always magic unfolding in what is next. I am awake, happyand always grateful. Diane



Your Monday Muse

Greetings, fellow PenWAG members!

We would like to kick this off this year's first Muse for **the Ides of March (Mar.15) from 7 -8:30 PM**. Please look for the invite in your email soon.

Claire De Lucchi



Sue Cyr has been busy!

Here is the necklace from the button workshop that I finished. If you know Sue, you can tell she made the tuffet

The dress - a friend was getting rid of the purple & green fabric so my 2 favorite colors - I sliced & diced the skirt and added the green & purple and I had the fabric I used for the bodice in my stash .

February General Meeting

Claire De Lucchi

-Meeting was started at 11:00 via Zoom Webinar by **Leilani Bennett**, Co-president. Roughly 46 attendees were online.

-**Andrew Trembley**, Historian, reminded members about Zoom controls and using chat for questions.

-**Kevin Roche**, Webmaster, spoke about the website improvements and reminded attendees to renew membership since the “grace period” during which lapsed members would still continue to get members-only communications would be ending at the end of February. There are **Angel Fund** resources for members who are unable to afford the full renewal amount.

-**Lenore Kelly**, Newsletter/Publicity, is accepting newsletter articles, photos and other member interest items via email (Lenore@penwag.org) from members.

-**Claire De Lucchi**, Secretary, invited members to the “**Monday Muse**” Zoom meeting on the 3rd Monday of each month from 7-8:30 pm. It is a free sharing of completed projects, solicitation of ideas to overcome creative blocks, random joyful offerings and a chance to get feedback or help from others in the way of resource sharing or opinions. Email reminder with Zoom link will be sent a few days prior.

Michelle Paganini, Programs, described March (**Suzi Klick**), April (**April Sproule**), May (**Diane Erickson**) and June (**Carolann Nixon**) programs. July will be another fabulous member showcase.

Michelle then introduced artist, entrepreneur, and world traveler **Dorothy Yuki** who enthralled members and guests about her creative journey through life thus far..

At your absolute best,
you still won't be
good enough for the
wrong person.

At your worst,
you'll still be worth it
to the right person.

WITITUDES

Membership Dues

Wren

PenWAG dues are now payable for 2021. 2020 has been a stressful year for PenWAG members and for the organization. The PenWAG Board has decided that dues will remain at \$60 per year. However, the Board recognizes that 2020 was a difficult year; members who have been negatively impacted by the events of this year may renew their dues for 2021 for any comfortable amount.

Those paying the full \$60 can pay either through our web site **PenWAG.org**, or by mailing a check. Those renewing for less should renew by mail to:

PenWAG
P.O. Box 111776
Campbell, CA 95011-1776

Look what I found in a Trader Joe's in Los Angeles today!

"Ellen" was proudly sporting this wearable art sweater. She said that she crocheted it with Noro yarn - silk garden. Interestingly and amazingly, it is self striping. She said she used a "Boho Cardigan pattern that she acquired on ravelry.com

Ellen made this about 7 years ago and is a member of ravelry.com, which she recommends. She said we could use the photo(s) if we want.



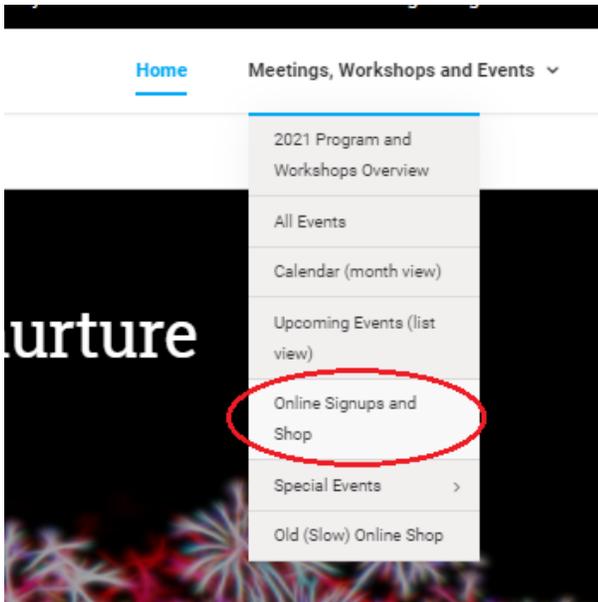
Michelle Paganini has been exploring design options for her new jacket pattern



March 2021: Website Updates

Hi everyone -- this is Kevin, your friendly neighborhood PenWAG webmaster. I've been working on ways to make our website more user friendly and useful to you all, and wanted to share some new features with you.

New (faster) shop and signups page



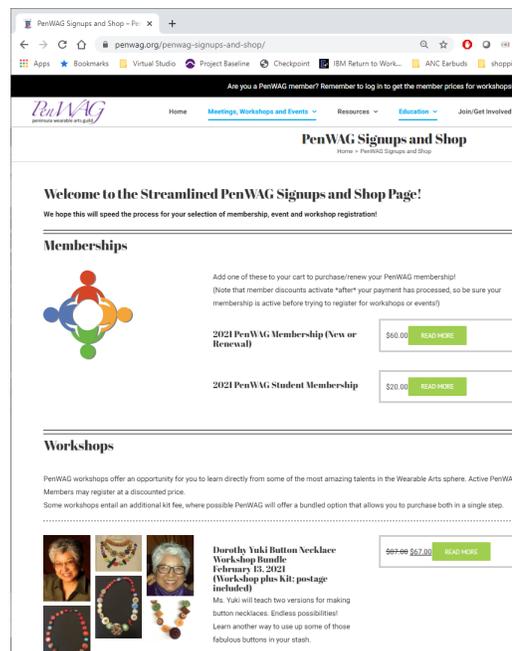
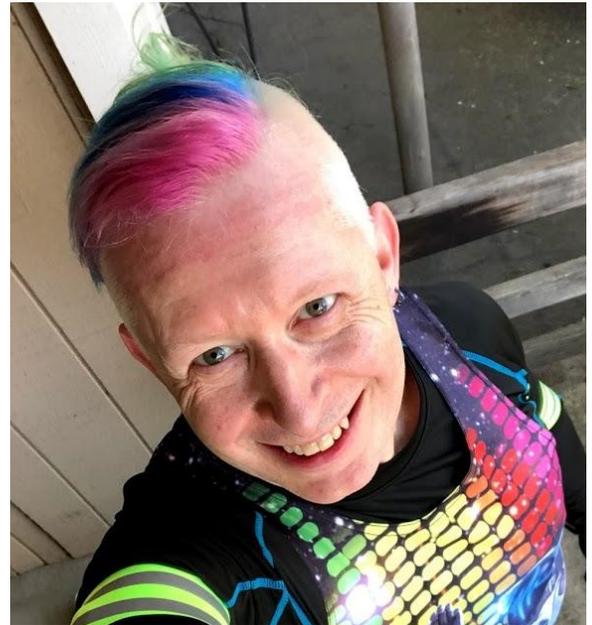
We use a tool called *WooCommerce* to build the online store for memberships, workshops, etc. It's very powerful, but its built-in shop page can take *forever* to load. We now have a much faster-loading page which can be a one-stop shop for everyone.

Navigating to the new shop

You get to the new page from the **Online Signups and Shop** menu item.

Once you are there, you'll find sections for Membership, Workshops, Guest Registration* and Donations.

*We request that non-members make a \$5 contribution to PenWAG to join one of our members-only webinars. The Guest Registration items are a simple way to do this via our shop.



Hints and Tricks

Here are a few things to note in the new shop page.

First, if you are signed in and your membership is current, you will see your member's discounted price right there in the store.

If a button for an item says **READ MORE** it means the item is out of stock or sold out.

If the button says **ADD TO CART** it means it is still available.

Donations via our shop

We have two donation items in the shop, the **Angel Fund** and a **General Donation**.

The **Angel Fund** is specifically to assist PenWAG members who may be struggling to meet the cost of an annual membership. To make an Angel Fund donation, add the \$1 item to your cart, then adjust the quantity to equal the amount you wish to donate.

The **General Donation** item is for making a contribution to PenWAG's general fund to be used at the Board's discretion (This can include being used to assist covering membership fees.) To make a general fund donation when you are *not* paying for any other items, add this to your cart. Then, when you get to the checkout page, put the amount you wish to donate in the *Donate to Penwag* blank and click on the purple button. This will adjust the amount of the item in your cart. If you have other items in your cart, you can make a donation with the purple button during the checkout process.

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lace

"READ MORE" = OUT OF STOCK/SOLD OUT



Block
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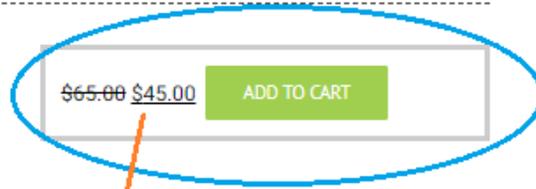
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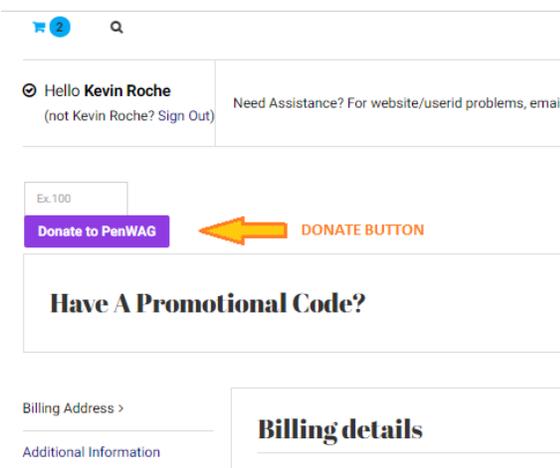
esign

ill learn to



"ADD TO CART" = STILL IN STOCK!

SEE YOUR DISCOUNT ON THE SCREEN!



Now built into our site: links to our online meetings and recorded webinars!

Every month I get a few frantic emails and messages as our Saturday webinar or the Monday Muse begins from members who can't find the login information. Here's how to find them:

First: Emails from Mailchimp

Before every webinar and Monday Muse, I have Mailchimp send out an email with the link. For webinars, you will see a button that says **RSVP or Log in** in that email. That button is the link to the meeting. If you click on it in advance, it will take you to a page to pre-register for the event, and Zoom will send you a reminder email. If you *don't* pre-register, the same button will let you sign in when the event starts.

For the Monday Muse, the link is the same every month; the button for it will take you straight to the Zoom event.

(Note: pages 13 and 14 featured members-only webcontent; they have been elided from this public version of the newsletter)

What's coming up next?

Our site runs much more slowly than we would like; this is because it is hosted on a "shared server." That means the actual computer sending the pages to people visiting our site is running many sites for different groups at the same time, and that means our site doesn't get enough resources. (It's like having too many programs running at once on your computer at home).

The board has approved and I am in the process of setting up a new server which will be dedicated to just our site. I expect that to yield dramatic performance improvements. If you would be interested in testing the new site as I build it, please drop me a line via webmaster@penwag.org

Once we have better performance, our site will be much easier to update and I will be able to use the talents of those members who have volunteered to contribute pages and posts to expand its content!

Keep building Beauty in your world!

Kevin Roche

PenWAG webmaster

