

# PenWAG Rag

**Leilani Bennett & Marcia Manzo**

**Co-Presidents**



## P residents' Thoughts. . . .

This is one of the hardest and most important columns I have written in my almost three years as Co-President. As a group, we can be very proud that we've successfully transitioned from a local group, (well, local, in that almost all of our members lived within a 50-mile radius) to an online group with members in five, (and counting) Western states. The pandemic gave us a bag of lemons and we've managed to make some pretty tasty lemonade. I see great opportunities for the group that we wouldn't even have dreamed of pre-pandemic.

It would be such a shame if PenWAG stopped existing at such an exciting time. But it is a very real possibility because by law, a 501c3 cannot exist without a Board of Directors. We are facing huge holes in leadership positions come 2022. If the holes don't get filled, we stop existing. That is not an idle threat – it's a simple fact.

**President, Vice President, Secretary, Social Media Chair** (replaces Publicity Chair)—all will be vacant positions as it stands now. Much coaxing and cajoling persuaded our hardworking and able Treasurer and Membership Chairs and Rag editor to remain. Our Program/workshop Chair volunteered early on to continue providing us with creative speakers throughout the coming year. The current Board has been serving for three consecutive years—we are tired but far more important, PenWAG needs some new people with new ideas and perspectives to serve in leadership positions. (One huge bonus of post-pandemic operations is that the Board will continue to meet via Zoom in the future. We found it works well and saves us the travel time and PenWAG the cost of a meeting room.)

New Members	2	On the bright side, a new member from Southern California has joined the Board as a
Program Chair Message	2	Member at Large. I spent almost an hour talking with her and she is the epitome of
Spoonflower	3-4	what we need – a brand new Board member with fresh new ideas and enthusiasm.
Oct. Gift-making	4	Another bright-side item – <i>Claire deLucchi</i> has indicated she might be willing to serve as
Nov. Harriett Riddell	5-6	VP or Co-Pres (something akin to how <i>Marcia Manzo</i> and I have served our last stint on
Dec. Show-n-Tell	7	the Board). If the idea of working with a dynamic, funny woman sounds like something
Blockbuster Speakers	7	you might be interested in, please do contact her – <a href="mailto:Secretary@Penwag.org">Secretary@Penwag.org</a> .
Monday Muse—9/20	8	As for any of the other positions, or to volunteer to help PenWAG in any other way,
At the Quilt Museum	9	please contact Marcia and me, <a href="mailto:President@Penwag.org">President@Penwag.org</a> . It's lovely to have old members
What, Where, When	10	rejoin, to have new members come on board, but unless more people are willing to step
Member Blog list	10	up to the plate and devote some of themselves to making it all happen, it just ain't
2021 Board Members	11	gonna keep happening. <i>Leilani</i>

**New Members**

Judy Shubin returning member, Penngrove, CA

Charlotte Kruk, San Jose, CA

Smaranika Sarangi, San Jose, CA

Leti Dueñas, Sebastopol, CA

Carolyn Schlegel Botta, Fresno, CA

From **Michelle Paganini**, Program Chair:

I am planning a “BEST OF” meeting and want to hear from you! **Send your entries to [Michelle@paganoonoo.com](mailto:Michelle@paganoonoo.com)**

What are your favorites? Patterns, online fabric shops, blogs, podcasts, inspiring artist websites, Pinterest searches/pages, Books, Blogs, Notions, Magazines, embellishment tools, etc.?

Use the following format:

**Category:** (what is it?)

**Website or purchase info:** (how can we find it?)

**Why is it a favorite?** (be specific and give examples)

**Submitted by:** (your name)

**For example:**

**Category:** Podcast

**Website or purchase info:** <https://lovetosewpodcast.com/>

**Why is it a favorite?**

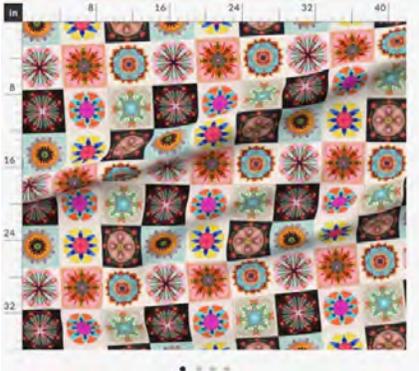
You wouldn't think a sewing podcast would work, but it is entertaining and informative every time. Covers a wide range of sewing topics, also features interviews with artists and organizations. Given by Helen of Helen's Closet Patterns & Caroline of Blackbird Fabrics. Favorite episode – Get your SewJo Back #87

**Submitted by:** Michelle Paganini

## Spoonflower, Instructor *Becka Rahn*, September 2021

### Program Title: A Spoonful of Spoonflower

On *September 11* we will be joined by *Becka Rahn* for *Spoonflower*, a fabric printing service for the program:



Designing fabric is more than just putting pencil to paper or generating pixels in Photoshop; it's about connecting and sharing stories and ideas. Get a tour of what it's like to design fabrics and print them using Spoonflower, a web-based service for printing your own fabric designs. Get the scoop on the technical details of uploading and proofing your files, see samples of different fabrics and walk through the process from start to finish. We'll also talk cost-saving tips for getting the most out of your yard of fabric, ways to proof designs and more.

[https://  
www.spoonflower.com](https://www.spoonflower.com)



# FREE WORKSHOP!

"A Spoonful of Spoonflower": an overview of how the service works, and a free workshop: "**How to Design Kaleidoscope Geometric Fabrics**". This benefit is available to all our members (welcome newbies). Spoonflower is a print-on-demand fabric service where you can design your own fabric using your images (or non-copyright images). You can also purchase other's fabric designs and/or put your fabric designs up for sale to the public. *Michelle Paganini* uses Spoonflower to print her own garment labels. Your imagination is the limit! **Register on [www.PenWAG.org](http://www.PenWAG.org).** Continued next page

## Spoonflower workshop, continued

No fabric design experience necessary, but you should be comfortable with basic computer skills like opening and saving a file, copy/paste. You do not need Photoshop or any special software or equipment.

**Supply list:** We will do a couple of small hands-on activities in this class. Please have a small handful of colored papers, a pair of scissors, and a gluestick or double-sided tape. You can use ANY kind of paper in any colors. Recycled is the best: magazine pages, wrapping paper, birthday card envelopes, junk mail, scrapbooking paper, construction paper, paint chips, hand-painted. It can have patterns, textures or words on it.



*Becka Rahn* is a full-time teaching artist and fabric designer who works in a micro-studio in Minneapolis. Becka works primarily in fabric and paper, specializing in textured designs from cut paper illustrations using recycled papers. She creates surface designs for fabric that she uses to make art pieces for gallery exhibitions, functional items to sell in her Etsy shops, and fabrics that you can buy to make your own projects. She is the co-author of *The Spoonflower Handbook*, a guide to designing your own fabrics. She has received awards for her work from Jerome and McKnight Foundations, MN State Arts Board, and *Fiber Art Now* magazine. She is an active teaching artist in her community and online. She is passionate about helping artists conquer technology barriers to make their work more accessible. You can see more of her work at [www.beckarah.com](http://www.beckarah.com)

## Gift Making, Member Taught Roundtable, October 2021

**Program Title:** Making small sewn gifts

**Description:** Members will teach how to make various small gifts perfect for charity giving or family and friends. *Marsha Manzo* will teach how to make soft stuffed cats from sweaters, *Michelle Paganini* will show various gifts made from vintage linens, and more.



## Harriet Riddell, November 2021

**Program Title:** Interacting with the world with a Sewing Machine,

**Description:** Textile Performance Artist Harriet Riddell specializes in observational drawings with a sewing machine. Harriet wheels her machine around the world, illustrating life in different places and the people she meets. Harriet will do a live stitched portrait of a PenWAG member during her program.



See the next page for more comments!



Family portrait by Harriet Riddell



Textile art by Harriet Riddell

**Judi Seip Says This about Harriet:** This stitching is of Dana, my granddaughter.

Harriet stitches people and scenes. She does not use any pen or pencil, she stitches as she is viewing somebody or some scene. She will go to a country or a place, set up her sewing machine with the battery that operates it on the table she carries along with her stool. She will then focus on somebody or some thing and start stitching. Harriet has work available on Etsy including signing up for a custom stitching which I did. Some in PenWAG may remember Dana who has been in ArtWear several times. She is now 17.

Dana sat at my computer on a zoom call with Harriet who lives in England. Harriet started with stitching her eyes, engaging Dana in conversation the whole time. That way Harriet could see her expressions and the things that turned her on. She totally captured Dana beautifully in this stitching. You may notice that she stitched some words into the length of her hair including her favorite teacher which is her art teacher, and some things about swimming which she has done competitively since kindergarten. She also loves cars and anything mechanical so that comment is in her hair also. It was amazing to watch Harriet work, particularly with the conversations she carried on as she was stitching. Near the end, she asked Dana to hold up her hands. Dana did a thumbs up which worked out very well. Then there was a little screech on our end when Dana noticed that she was even putting in the friendship bracelets that Dana had on both hands and then her watch as well. All of this was done in 55 delightful minutes.

After the Zoom call, Harriet used a piece of shiny fabric for her blouse, stitching it over the body part, and even spiced it up with a few sequins. This is on a 12 x 16 piece of canvas.

One of Harriet's significant trips was through India. She has written a charming book that is full of illustrations of her stitchery and her India trip. She would set up in a market or on a boat or any place at all and just start stitching anything she thought was interesting. I will bring the book to the November meeting when she is there and also the other stitching which is similar to the one you see here because I am keeping the second one. More information:

1. Her own site (+ Facebook & Instagram): [https:// institchyou.com/](https://institchyou.com/)
2. Her book "InStitchYou" which I bought after seeing her on Zoom: <https://www.etsy.com/listing/831953408/harriet-riddell-india-book-institchyou-a>
3. Some of her work for sale. If you click and swish on each square, you will see not only additional stitchery but also many photos of her setting up her sewing machine in a market street, on a boat, etc, to stitch a portrait or scene. Check out: <https://www.etsy.com/shop/InStitchYou>



# December Program: Member Show and Tell

**Description:** This is your opportunity to share your creations and inspire others. Share what you've done in workshops, on your own, etc. by sending your clearly lit photos! Deadline for submission would be Nov 27. Extra encouragement for holiday projects, not just wearable art.



## Blockbuster Speaker!



We promised you some blockbuster speakers and **Lorraine Torrence** falls into that category. Lorraine is a well known and talented patternmaker and instructor. You can visit her work at [www.lorrainetorrence.com](http://www.lorrainetorrence.com) She will be joining us in April 2022. Stay tuned for details!



## Monday Muse and the 5 Challenges of 2021

Claire De Lucchi

**NEXT MONDAY MUSE September 20**

**Monday Muse - by *Claire De Lucchi***

For 9 months now, on the third Monday night of the month from 7-8:30pm (Pacific Time), 20-30 PenWAG members have met via Zoom to encourage our "Monday Muse". So far, I have been able to attend them all and facilitate the 90-minute session of sharing, exploring, questioning, bemoaning, laughing and, yes, crying a bit about our muse(s) or lack thereof. I am looking for co-facilitators to co-host with me, **Andrew Trembley**, and **Kevin Roche**. The Zoom part comes quickly, but the light touch with cajoling, supporting, moving it along and making sure everyone gets a chance to share is what we could use a few volunteers to help. Having just retired from full time work after 42 years, I plan to step away and travel a bit and would love to know there are a few members willing and able to help with this fun virtual meeting. We have had some of our guest artists join us and sometimes we get to meet brand new members. We have active participants from greater San Diego, Lake Tahoe, Seattle and other parts of the West and it truly is a chance to chat, sip a glass of something soothing and to share in a fairly unstructured environment. Interested? You can email me at [clairede@penwag.org](mailto:clairede@penwag.org)

## Monday Muse and the 5 Challenges of 2021

*We call this year's 5 challenge options "Alphabet Soup":*

- **A is for Artist inspiration** - did one of our recent artists provide a spark which got you fired up? **Laura Murray, Dorothy Yuki, Suzi Click, April Sproule** or any of the upcoming 2021 roster . . .
- **B is for Bought it during the pandemic** and now finally transformed it into something fun to share...
- **C is for a Class project** or technique you learned at PenWAG or online and you made something of it!
- **D is for a Deferred challenge** from any of the last few years which you finally unearthed and finished.
- **F is for Finishing a UFO** of any type, provenance or vintage!

Although A, B, C, D and F look like letter grades, it is merely a coincidence! If you share any challenge result with the rest of us, you definitely have earned a spot on the PenWAG stage for a few moments of celebration and some oohs and ahs!

# Happenings at the Museum

Visit the **San Jose Museum Quilts & Textiles** located at 520 S. First Street. For information [www.sjquiltmuseum.org](http://www.sjquiltmuseum.org)

## New Exhibitions & New Hours This September!

On **Wednesday, September 22** and **Thursday, September 23**, we will have a Members & Artists preview. **Friday, September 24th**, we will open to the general public.

After this special opening week, our new hours are as follows:

**Thursday: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

**Friday: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.; 4 p.m. - 7 p.m.** Evening hours admission is 'Pay What You Can!')

**Saturday: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

**Sunday: 11 a.m. - 3 p.m.**

Timed reservations are recommended but not required; masks are required, regardless of vaccination status.



### Layered and Stitched: 50 Years of Innovative Art



September 22, 2021 – January 2, 2022

### More Impact: Climate Change: Tapestry Weavers West



September 22, 2021 – January 2, 2022

**BioQuilts: Artist in Residence, Corinne Okada Takara**

August 20, 2021 – September 12, 2022



# 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](http://www.penwag.org) for program information (there's a public copy available also).

## Monday Muse

We have an inspirational meeting for the third Monday of the month, 7:00—8:30 p.m. 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!

## 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](http://www.penwag.org)

**CALLING ALL MEMBERS:** do you have a website or other social media to be listed here? Send it to [Lenore@penwag.org](mailto:Lenore@penwag.org)

**April Sproule**     [Sproule Studios](http://www.sproulestudios.com)

**Caroline Nixon**     <http://www.handmadetextilesbycaroline.co.uk>

**Diane Ericson**     [Diane Ericson Design](http://www.dianeericson.com)

**Dorothy Yuki**     [www.dotsrainbow.com](http://www.dotsrainbow.com)

**Susan Helmer**     [www.susanhelmer.com](http://www.susanhelmer.com)

**Willa Scholten**     <http://facebook.com/WILLAs-creative-collection-105234725027873>