

# PenWAG Rag



**Leilani Bennett & Marcia Manzo**

**Co-Presidents**



**Note: joined at the hip**

## P residents' Thoughts. . . .

As many of you know, I was in real estate sales for over twenty years. You take many workshops and seminars to maintain your license and also give you some idea of how in the hell you can help people with one of the biggest financial decisions of their lifetime.

In one of those many seminars, the presenter was listing the different types of closes – closing being what you do to get the signature on the dotted line. One that stuck with me because it was so outlandish that I wondered if it were supposed to be more humorous than practical, was the “bleeding on the carpet” close. In other words, when all else fails, make them feel sorry for you. Rereading last month’s newsletter, I think I may have come close to “bleeding on the carpet” to try to get members to step up and do what it takes to make this organization work.

You are now reading the words of one very happy camper. We have a slate for Board of Directors that is 99% certain and what is most exciting is that we have members on it who have never been in a PenWAG leadership position before and two remote members who, while not able to attend our live meetings (whenever those can happen again!) are very excited to be part of PenWAG and want to do their parMoret to make it all work!

I got a lovely email this morning from one of local members who said that while she is not comfortable being in a leadership position, she is volunteering to do whatever she is capable of doing to make it work. (I’m channeling Tim Gunn I think.)

The cherry on top of my euphoric happy dance was a phone call from Michelle Paganini going through her list of contracted presenters for 2022. It is going to be a very good year! I’m delighted you are all on board and Marcia and I are so grateful to the wonderful people who have stepped up to make it that.

Stay well everyone and keep creating! Leilani

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**New Members**

*Jean Zalog San Jose, CA*

*Lora Wheeler Merced, CA*

*Becka Rahn Minneapolis, MN*

## 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>

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# December Program: Member Show and Tell

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! Judi Seip (judiseip@gmail.com) Deadline for submission would be Nov 27.

Extra encouragement for holiday projects, not just wearable art.

Right: Ronda Chaney's new blouse



Crochet tree at UC Davis



**January 8, 2022**

**Program: Tonje Halvorsen and the Safety Pin - The Love Story**

**11:00 – 12:30**

This is a talk about how Tonje became an artist and fell in love with the safety pin as a medium. She will share her journey beginning with how it all started, her success and challenges, and her working process. She will also share how an idea and garment are formed.

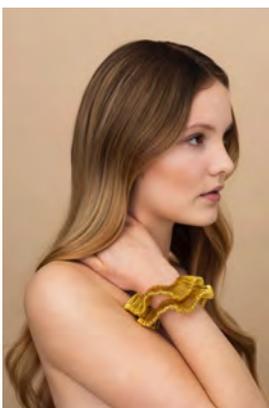


**Workshop: Tonje Halvorsen Curvy Bracelet 1:15 – 4:15**

In this workshop you will learn how to create with safety pins. It is a workshop both for the experienced craftsperson wanting to try something new and for the beginners who are curious about giving this craft a try. We are going to walk through the basics of the craft, so no prior knowledge is needed.

We will go through the different techniques of how to create textures and art pieces using safety pins (28mm). After the introduction we will create curvy bracelets with help and guidance from Tonje.

Supplies: This project will use 28mm safety pins. You can purchase your own (how much will be posted later) or get a kit directly from Tonje for \$20 (link to come later.)





We promised you some great 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!



## Artwear for Ourselves – July 2022

Wouldn't it be great to see each other's work in person? That is the plan next July, an entire meeting (our first in person) dedicated to show and tell, providing we can. I envision a bit of a runway style show with outfit descriptions read by an MC (*Kevin Roche?*). Something we can make special for our out-of-the-area members. Do you have a vision for this type of show? *Looking for a coordinator and team to get us organized and ready to go.* **Contact Michelle Paganini at [michelle@paganoonoo.com](mailto:michelle@paganoonoo.com).**

## PenWAG contribution to the Covid Relief Effort

If you sewed isolation gowns during the Covid isolation, please email [presidents@penwag.org](mailto:presidents@penwag.org) and let us know your name and the number you created. I want to put an article run the next PenWAG Newsletter. Thank you for your contribution.



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

## Monday Muse and the 5 Challenges of 2021

Claire De Lucchi

**NEXT MONDAY MUSE October 18**

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

For some 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!

*Claire De Lucchi* <clairede@pacbell.net> wrote:

**Zoom Meeting opened at 10:59AM by Marcia Manzo, Co-President.** Approximately 84 people were in attendance, including up to 22 non-member guests. *Andrew Trembley* briefly explained the Zoom menus for attendees.

Marcia introduced the other Board Members / Panelists along with a summary description of their role and background with PenWAG. She provided a brief history and mission of PenWAG for the benefit of newer members and guests.

Finally, Marcia communicated the open position remaining on the preliminary slate of Board officers for 2022: President. *Debbie Bretschneider* was thanked for volunteering to fill the Secretary slot for 2022 which allowed *Claire De Lucchi*, current Secretary, to submit herself for the Vice President slot. Marcia went on to describe that the President and/or Vice-President positions have been filled creatively in the past by two people sharing the seat(s) and divvying up the duties as best fit their preferences and experience. Anyone interested can email Marcia Manzo at [President@Penwag.org](mailto:President@Penwag.org) to learn more.

*Michelle Paganini*, Program Director, then described the upcoming Programs including a peek at some of the featured speakers for the first half of 2022. She then introduced *Becka Rahn*, the featured speaker and subsequent "Spoonflower" workshop leader at 11:22 a.m., thereby ending the business portion of the meeting.



FedEx is expected to join its competitor, UPS, and become: FedUP.

## MARK YOUR CALENDAR FabMo, Saturday, October 30

Dear friends and acquaintances of **Kaaren Antoun**.

If you knew Kaaren, you knew of her love of beautiful fabrics and what she called “slow sewing.” She enjoyed stitching fabric together and creating eye-catching and often avant-garde garments. If pressed to name her favorite designer, it would be Issey Miyake, whose designs she sewed, wore, and collected.

Kaaren made several trips to Japan and other east Asia countries where she purchased textiles and notions. When she passed away in June, she left behind a treasure trove of exceptional textiles and many other sewing supplies. She asked her husband, John, to arrange for their distribution to people in her local sewing communities, with benefits going to FabMo, one of her favorite charities.

Accordingly, close friends and family of Kaaren are holding an estate sale of her fabrics, notions, patterns and other treasures on Saturday afternoon, Oct. 30. The sale will be held at the **FabMo warehouse in Sunnyvale** and is by special invitation to members of ASG San Jose, ASG Santa Rosa, PenWAG, and the Bay Area Sew Group. We want to include everyone who knew Kaaren, so please forward on to others we may have missed.

We hope you will set aside some time for this event and will join us to honor Kaaren by choosing to purchase some of her treasures and at the same time contribute to FabMo. **Reservations** are required to attend. Please make yours by email to: [susi54559@gmail.com](mailto:susi54559@gmail.com), specifying your name, community affiliation, and a desired half-hour time slot between 1 and 4:00 PM on Oct. 30. **Please RSVP by Oct. 28** as we will close off appointments at that date. Susi will send you a confirmation email with FabMo's address. We look forward to seeing you Oct. 30 at FabMo to honor Kaaren at her estate sale..

*John Antoun`*

*Barbara Bowers*

*Susi Lilly*

# Happenings at the Museum



Visit the **San Jose Museum Quilts & Textiles** located at 520 S. First Street.

For information [www.sjqmusem.org](http://www.sjqmusem.org)

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.

# 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>