

# PACIFIC TEXTILE ARTS

## NEWSLETTER #79

JANUARY 2023 [www.pacifictextilearts.org](http://www.pacifictextilearts.org)

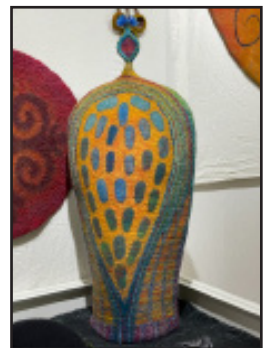
### A NEED INDEED

This is our seventy ninth newsletter. I have decided to continue writing it for one more year after this in order to reach #80. That has a nice ring to it. Mickie McCormic and Suzanne daRosa are assisting me with stories for this edition and after the completion of #80, Mickie will take over. I may well chime in with a few occasional words after the change. I'm sure I will miss the witing.....but not the deadlines.

These last several years have found us all dealing with Covid in a multiplicity of ways. It's been hard on friendships. Some of us are more careful about trying to avoid the virus than others. Art and I were very careful, and though fully boosted, finally succumbed to it this month after we completed the two Audubon bird counts that we've participated in over the years. We enjoyed the Fort Bragg count and also the south coast region where our assignment takes us to Irish Beach. While driving back from the coast, we began to feel the dreaded sore throat. For us, it turned out to be mostly like a rather bad cold which we overcame in less that ten days. Not too bad for a couple of ninety somethings, eh?

Some 30 years ago, we decided to attempt fund raising to buy our wonderful property on Alger Street in Fort Bragg, it felt like a thing worth pursuing.....But it did seem more like a dream when we first began. Then, lo and behold, we made it. I wanted that to be my first and only venture into the world of "Pledge Drives". However, when the school district gave us the two buildings that now house our classroom and our library, it became clear that another fundraiser would be necessary to pay for having the two gift buildings moved to and installed on our property. So we did a second one. And all of you wonderful friends helped us to fund that move. After that was accomplished I swore that was the very last pledge drive I would ever attempt.....but OK, you guessed it..... I'm here again. And at my age, I really do hope it is the last time I will personally embark on this kind of project. The reason for it is compelling. Several weeks ago, after questioning Tregoning Construction about the deteriorating look of the north wall of our weaving classroom, the answer to our questions was not what we wanted to hear. That whole wall needs to be rebuilt. The fact is, the opposite wall on the south side of the building needed to and was rebuilt at the time of its installation. We are so lucky to have the two buildings, but this is a reminder to us all of how old they both are. We are so grateful to have them and feel that it will be better to face up to it now rather than when the damage creeps to the rest of the building. So my absolutely last pledge drive is about to begin. We are going to add one other need to the picture in hopes of saving both buildings. The library roof seems to have come to us with a large, permanent dip on the roof that causes universal alarm when we look down upon it from the upper story of the headquarters house whenever there is the slightest rain. Both builders and roofers have told us not to worry; "It will probably hold up just fine," they say. We now hold more than thirty five hundred precious textile oriented volumes in that building and we feel we must do something to improve its situation..... Fill the "puddle area" with a non-porous material and then paint Flex Seal over the entire library roof. The cost of doing that will be added to our pledge drive in order to complete our current "fix it" needs.

Much has happened during this last year despite the Covid situation: I celebrated my 90th birthday and presented a retrospective exhibit which ran through May and June. Mickie showed her wonderful collection of Molasses, and a group show brought visitors back repeatedly to see Adrianes's beautifully installed exhibit.



*Scenes from  
Adriane Nicolaisen's  
new felt installation*

## THE GUESTHOUSE MUSEUM LOOM

The loom was donated to the museum in 2010, by Carole Ann Wuolte. It was built of redwood in 1910 by a local craftsman for a Finnish woman to weave her traditional rag rugs. Derrick Hoyle, a docent at the museum and friend of PTArts, asked us to adopt it and make it functional. Karen Inwood and Laine Escola cleaned the loom and made new aprons for it. It's been busy ever since, and many people have enjoyed watching it in action and even trying it for themselves. Several volunteers still wind the warps, prep the weft strips, thread the loom, and weave rag rugs on it, but because of the pandemic, the weaving is mostly done when visitors are not present. We arranged with the museum to sell the rugs, sending PTArts half of the payment. We've sold lots of rugs over the years, and the visitors are able to see the loom with a project in progress, rather than standing empty. *(Courtesy Mickie McCormic)*

## SHIFU



BARBARA NITSBERG

### SHIFU: THE ART OF MAKING PAPER INTO THREAD

In October Barbara Nitsberg treated us to an engaging walk-through of the Japanese tradition of weaving cloth from thread made of paper. It was followed by an afternoon class of cutting and spinning paper into yarn. Kozo, rice and Gambi papers were used along with commercial tissue paper from sewing patterns. Paper was cut into thin continuous strips, hand rolled and spun for weaving into cloth. Barbara's mastery of work in this medium is a source of inspiration and a testament to her creative journey. The video of her presentation is on our blog.. <https://www.pacifictextilearts.org/shifu>  
*(Courtesy of Suzanne Da Rosa)*

## A WEALTH OF VOLUNTEER OPPORTUNITIES

As we open back up, it's the perfect time to get involved with PTArts. We are looking for help in areas that you are most interested in. You'd be working with like-minded folks and flexible time commitments. Please e-mail [volunteer@pacific-textilearts.org](mailto:volunteer@pacific-textilearts.org) for information and to let us know where your interests are. Also, thanks so much to those who have come forth to assist us already. We are truly grateful.

### Volunteer opportunities include:

**Outreach** – Website, social media, Constant Contact e-mails, PR flyers

**Docenting** – Keeping the place open four days a week, maybe coming once a month on a regular basis.

**Gallery** – First Fridays and helping with the many parts of exhibitions and sales.

**Programs** – Setting up and helping speakers, assisting the Zoom team.

**Classes** – Assisting the teacher and class coordinator.

**Hosting** – Housing a visiting artist, teacher, or guest speaker.

**Events** – Fiber Fair, our annual big event, and smaller events like field trips

**Campus** – Gardening, cleaning, helping make our campus inviting

*Each area has a committee with a list of individual TASKS THAT KEEP EVERYTHING RUNNING SMOOTHLY.*

*(Courtesy of Mickie McCormic)*

## THANK YOU JOHN WARD

At some point during late Summer of 2022, John Ward offered to share some of his facilitation skills with our board. He was of the opinion that we needed some tightening up of our leadership and organizational skills. He was particularly interested in helping some of our newer board members to understand just exactly what all board members were responsible for. We are grateful to John for the time he spent shaping us up and bringing us new understanding of what our responsibilities are and what is expected of each member. With the good work done to put all of this progress into writing much more than we've ever done, Norma Andres, Suzanne Da Rosa and Mickie McCormick have made us feel more organized than ever before. Thank you John for a job well done. And good wishes to you with any new projects in your future.

# LATEST CLASS INFORMATION

**WE REQUIRE A \$50 DEPOSIT TO HOLD YOUR PLACE**

**PTA is** excited to offer a plethora of classes for 2023. Some are firmly scheduled. Others are tentative with negotiations on dates and details pending. As we confirm dates and costs of classes, we will get them up on the website.

**Firmly scheduled:**

Adriane Nicolaisen ....Make a Felt Bag...March 6-8...cost \$300. Check out Adriane's PTA blog for You Tube links to the Hungarian Felters with whom she recently studied. Also check out her work.

Sue Luna... Weaving with Chenille... June 8-9-10-11

Janice Sullivan...Learn To Weave ...Sunday afternoons for 10 weeks...June 17 to Aug.19 --1:30-4:30  
Tuition-\$400

Tricia Goldberg ...3 day Tapestry Class ...April 21-24

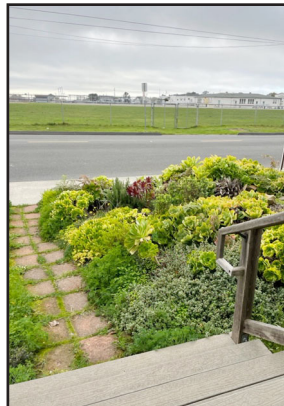
Jackie Wollenberg/Elaine Todd ...Five day Tapestry Class in the Fall

Nancy Kennedy...4 Day Summer & Winter Rug Techniques..Card Woven Selvedges/Woven Hems...Demo of Shaft Switching..Sept. 15, 16, 17, 18. [nancykennedydesigns.net](http://nancykennedydesigns.net)

Julia Parker & her daughter and possibly granddaughter....3 Day Pomo Basket Making...Oct. 20-21-22. Google Julia & family SPARK KQED on You Tube ...We are very excited to have them here!

We are in conversation with Pat Ferrero and the local Mushroom Club about co-sponsoring a weekend Dye Class this spring. Lastly we hope Mari Yamaguchi will share an afternoon of natural fiber joinery to make weft. Stay tuned. Lots going on!

**We require a \$50 deposit to hold any reservations**



## OUR DYE GARDEN

While we have some dye plants growing on the grounds at Alger Street (madder, elderberry, coreopsis and eucalyptus), we also tend a small dye garden at the Botanical Gardens. It was started in 2015, when Laine Escola and May Edelman traveled to Peg Schafer's dye plant nursery in Petaluma for seedlings of indigo and weld. Today, the garden has madder, weld, yarrow, goldenrod, calendula, marigolds, and dyers' chamomile, as well as indigo that Karen Inwood starts from seeds at home every spring. The young plants are then taken to the Gardens when they're ready to be transplanted. Laine Escola, Nancy Trissel, Mari Yamaguchi, and Karen have worked the little plot, weeding, planting, and harvesting. We hope to use the fresh indigo next summer since classes have started up again, and dyeing classes on the outdoor, covered patio are great for people still wary of Covid. *(Mickie McCormic)*

## CLASSES IN OUR FUTURE

Planning for classes has been anything but easy during these trying Covid times. We make plans which often get changed several times before being settled. But please know that we are on our way back to some new kind of normal and wish to keep you informed as quickly and correctly as possible. Please check our website and Constant Contact for the latest news.

**LATEST NOTICE:** See page three of this newsletter for the latest situation regarding classes scheduled.

Nancy Reynolds has recently become our point person for the listing of classes. She's catching on fast to all the intricacies involved in keeping track of the latest schedule developments. We are so lucky to have her doing this job.

## THINKING OF NANCY

Until recently, Nancy Denison has been our treasurer and the mainstay of our office. She is now retired from the board and no longer keeping our books as she has done so meticulously for many years. Nancy has been suffering more and more the last few years from increasing back problems. Among other things she has spinal stenosis plus deteriorating vertebrae which keeps her in a state of ongoing pain. Our hearts are with her as well as our wishes for a miraculous reversal of her condition.

## AFRICAN TEXTILES AT PTARTS

February is focussing on African textiles at PTArts, starting Feb. 3. First with a fundraising show/sale of African textiles donated by Anne Fleuret! The Feb. 25th 4th Saturday (11 to noon) Anne will talk about some of the pieces PTArts is keeping for the Textile Study Collection. That same afternoon (2 to 4), Rebecca Jarrett of Ananse Village, will join Anne and Lolli to talk about the African textiles in the PTArts collection.



## THE MUSHROOM DYE GATHERING

In October, PTArts hosted an exploration into the amazing colors that local mushrooms can offer. It was a collaboration with the Larry Spring Museum, which was offering "Chaos Fungorum 22" at that time. Because the museum received a grant from the California Arts Council, the event was free, and 14 people joined in enthusiastically. They brewed mushroom dye liquors, mordanted fibers, and achieved a range of colors with pH and mineral modifiers. Each person took home enough felt swatches to make a small bunting banner, along with sample skeins in an earthy rainbow of colors.

The Dye Gathering celebrated the curiosity of Mendocino fiber artist Miriam Rice, whose pioneering research into artistic applications for fungi, including natural dyes and pigments, led the modern resurgence of using mushrooms for color. Her work is carried on through the International Mushroom Dye Institute ([mushroomsforcolor.com](http://mushroomsforcolor.com)) and the Miriam Rice Archive at Pacific Textile Arts. The October dye event was led by papermaking and printmaking artist Anne Beck, who first encountered mushroom dyes during a demonstration led by Nancy Denison, PTArts member and student of Miriam Rice's. Anne described the dye exploration as "non-hierarchical and rhizomatic, true to the mycelial source material." *(Courtesy of Mickie McCormic)*

# JOIN OUR RECONSTRUCTION PLEDGE DRIVE

YOU CAN COUNT ON ME TO CONTRIBUTE \$ \_\_\_\_\_ TO THIS CAUSE BY SENDING A CHECK NOW OR WITHIN TWO WEEKS OF RECEIVING A REQUEST FROM PTARTS. SEND THIS PLEDGE TO:

PLEDGE DRIVE, PTARTS, 450 ALGER ST. FORT BRAGG, CA 95437 TO  
PLEDGE BY PHONE OR FOR MORE INFORMATION, CALL JACKIE WOLLENBERG AT  
707-799-4696

## THANK YOU COMMUNITY FOUNDATION

Pacific Textile Arts wishes to convey its gratitude to the Community Foundation of Mendocino County for awarding us a generous grant, upgrading technology and computers in support of our library and textile collections and community access to them, as well as a separate grant to build a large cabinet in our weaving classroom to house treasured weaving sample books and other, valued titles for student access. Thank you!

### PLEASE JOIN PACIFIC TEXTILE ARTS TODAY

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

POSTAL ADDRESS

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

CELL \_\_\_\_\_

EMAIL ADDRESS

\_\_\_\_\_

I want to be on the Constant Contact  
Email List

Let us know if you would like to receive our  
online **Constant Contact** mailings with news of  
PTArts.  
And....**Please send us your email address** so that we  
can send you our newsletter in color online.  
thank you.

PTARTS MEMBERSHIP (\$15) \$ \_\_\_\_\_

#### DONATIONS:

MONTHLY SAT. PROGRAMS \$ \_\_\_\_\_

HELEN POPE MEMORIAL  
BUILDING FUND \$ \_\_\_\_\_

SCHOLARSHIP FUND \$ \_\_\_\_\_

DYE GARDEN FUND \$ \_\_\_\_\_

UNDESIGNATED DONATION \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**TOTAL ENCLOSED** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Pacific Textile Arts, at 450 Alger Street, has become a warm and welcoming place to congregate. We hope you will join us again at some of our Saturday Programs, classes, study groups and First Friday openings for our gallery exhibits. You may view this newsletter in color by going to our website and clicking on the link for newsletter #79C. If you haven't already renewed your membership, we hope you will take the time to send in the enclosed envelope. We are so grateful for your support.*

## TAPESTRY LOOM FOR SALE

Pacific Textile Arts has decided to sell one of its fine John Shannock tapestry looms in order to have more room for classes in our tapestry studio.

It is the classic Large Shannock loom made entirely of steel.

We have not decided on a price yet but are open to suggestions and offers if you are interested. Call Jackie at:707-799-4696



**-SAD LOSS-** It is with great sadness that I must tell you our dear friend and colleague, Larry Thomas, died on January 6, 2023 of pancreatic cancer. Many of you know of him as a kind, generous, and humble person. Many of you know of him as a teacher who was always willing to share his knowledge. Many of you know of his dazzling and prolific output as an artist. He was an inspiring and remarkable man, and much beloved by all who knew him. We can take comfort in knowing that he is at rest now, and that his many achievements, friendships, and influence will continue. He will be greatly missed. *(Courtesy of Judy Detrick)*

**PACIFIC TEXTILE ARTS**  
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## NEW ZAPOTEC RUG FOR SALE-

The following rug was sold to Kathy Wollenberg by our Zapotec friends in Teotitlan Mexico. It is a Zapotec rug using plant dyed yarns. The dimensions happen to be too large for Kathy. It is brand new and would be gorgeous in a home with more floor space. Kathy can't keep it in her kitchen so she will sell it for \$800. Call Jackie at 707-799-4696 to see if you would like to buy it. The dimensions are: 9 feet by 5 feet seven and a half inches.

