



# WITWATERSRAND EMBROIDERS' GUILD NEWSLETTER

**October/November 2023**

Hello everyone,

One of the conversational gambits that are suggested for networking events, where you may perhaps not know anyone, is to chat about the weather. I realise that each time I sit down to do the newsletter, it is rainy and cold. So frankly, I won't say anything more.

I thought instead, that I would say something about kindness. We are all in need of a kind word or an honest compliment, and it takes so little. The dictionary defines it as *'the quality of being friendly, generous, and considerate'*. I find that the people of WEG embody those qualities, and there is so much love in the room whenever we meet. I thank you for that and encourage you to keep it going. It is the lifeblood of our group and what keeps us all connected. If ever you are faced with something unkind, or upsetting, please remember that you are loved by all of us, and we will stand with you.

"WHEREVER THERE IS A HUMAN  
BEING, THERE IS AN OPPORTUNITY  
FOR A KINDNESS"

- LUCIUS ANNAEUS SENECA



**RANDOM ACTS OF KINDNESS  
FOUNDATION**

[www.randomactsofkindness.org](http://www.randomactsofkindness.org)

## BIRTHDAYS IN NOVEMBER

Dot Gibbons 30<sup>th</sup> November  
Hannah van Rensburg 22<sup>nd</sup> November  
Susan Alexander 2<sup>nd</sup> November

**AGAIN, IF WE'VE LEFT YOU OUT PLEASE LET US KNOW SO WE CAN UPDATE OUR RECORDS.**

## WORKSHOPS EXTERNAL/BEGINNERS

Beginner's workshops are still running in alternate months, on a Saturday. Alice will be running her final 2023 workshop in 2023 for anyone who would like to learn more skills. Anyone who wants to learn something is welcome to contact either Alice, or me, to find out more.

Alice 082 926 9704

Danny 082 565 6401

## FINAL INTERNAL WORKSHOP: SMOCKING

Helen O'H will run our last workshop for 2023 in November. She will be doing smocked globes which will incorporate smocking and some beading. Please let her know, via a personal message, if you would like to attend.



## TUESDAY WORKSHOPS

We really want to be able to offer workshops at both meetings but are still without a facilitator for Tuesdays. This makes it impossible to run Tuesday workshops unless one of the committee takes it on as another portfolio. As we are a small committee, this is challenging to say the least. The recent Sashiko workshop required about 20 hours of preparation, plus the two mornings' teaching, so you can imagine it's a commitment. However, if you see yourself being able to contribute, please contact Jenni to discuss it. Jenni Langford: 082 489 1624

## WORKSHOP COSTS

The costs to the guild of running workshops is increasing, as is everything else, sadly. We try to keep them to a minimum, and our teachers do not get paid. Despite using as much of the stash which we have to make up the workshop kits, most workshops run at a loss, or just about break even. We can't keep doing that. We will be calculating the cost of each workshop as they come up, and will let you know beforehand, what they will be. The minimum cost in 2024 will be R50 but will increase should the kit costs exceed that. When you think about what you get, it's still an incredible bargain. Please keep letting us know what workshops you would like to see, and of course, keep attending them.

## SASHIKO

The Sashiko workshop held during October was very successful. I have been blown away by the inventiveness of the members who attended. We had a large number of requests for kits, from those who were not attending the workshop. This was an interesting experiment, and we will, *perhaps*, be trying it out with other workshops. We may also consider making up kits for members to buy, as an income-generating option depending on our capacity.

## 'SHOW AND TELL' OCTOBER 2023

Lovely things were seen at the last show and tell – we certainly have a lot of talented members.





## SALES

Guild sales Tables are held on the last Tuesday and 4<sup>th</sup> Saturday of the month. Please contact Alice Per or Linda Putter if you would like to sell your own things. An 'honesty' donation to the Guild of 10% of what you sell is all that you need to pay.

Linda 072 4069842

Alice 082 926 9704

## OTHER SALES

Toni has notified us that she can no longer sell her treasures on a Tuesday because of work commitments. However, she is still selling on the first Saturday of the month and will be available on the phone if you need anything. Toni will supply people who are not in JHB. Please contact her if you want to know more.

Toni 0824527311

## IGHALI

Toni has formed a committee to work with her on Ighali, including fundraising, which as you can imagine, is a big part of the work involved. She will be sharing their ideas with us in the coming months. Please support their initiatives to ensure that we can run a successful conference.

## FROM THE COMMITTEE

The committee meets each month, usually before the first Saturday meeting of the month. If you would like to bring something to our attention, or ask us to consider anything, please either put it in the suggestion box, or message any one of us, or you can email it to [witsembroidery@gmail.com](mailto:witsembroidery@gmail.com)

Aneeba (Cuki) Imran has agreed to be co-opted onto the committee which we are thrilled about. Welcome Cuki and thank you for being willing to take on some of the load.

Dot Gibbons has also offered to help in whatever capacity she can. We are very grateful Dot and thank you. Welcome.

Hilary Walker continues to be a wonderful support to us on the WhatsApp group and offers support to anyone who needs it. Thank you Hilary, we appreciate you.

**PLEASE WILL ANYONE WHO IS WILLING TO BE ON THE COMMITTEE OR ASSIST IN ANOTHER WAY, PLEASE LET ONE OF US KNOW.**

**PLEASE VOLUNTEER; WE ARE A SMALL COMMITTEE AND ARE ALREADY STRETCHED THIN. THE MORE MEMBERS WHO HELP, THE BETTER WE WILL BE ABLE TO SERVE THE GUILD.**

## DONATIONS

We often receive donations from people outside of WEG. These can be as varied as porcelain dolls, knitting patterns, fabric, thread, books, magazines and so on. It can be a dilemma to know what to do with them. If it is something that can go into our sales we add it, and of course, we use what we can for our workshops. However, sometimes we get boxes and boxes of specialised books, or patterns that we just cannot use. When that happens, we put these items on the 'freebies' pile during our sales days. Please be encouraged to look at them, and perhaps take up a new discipline.

We are always very happy to receive donated, framed embroideries which we can add to our 'gallery' wall. We look forward to receiving many more of these.

Where the items are not things we can use, we look for a suitable place to donate them. We recently received a whole lot of dolls, which we donated to Ida's church for distribution to the children there.

## COMMITTEE

Danny 0825656401, Helen 0627421232, Jenni 0834891624, Diane 0721194938, Agness 0812708581, Alice 0829269704, Cuki 011 493 3777, Dot 082395 3308

Linda Putter for Sales 0724069842 and Ciairan (Tea) 0729964030 (alternate)

## MEMBERS' NEWS

Neith Thompson has returned to meetings, and is looking very well, despite having been so sick. Agness is inspirational, getting stronger, doing some handwork when she can, and still sending us lovely messages. We appreciate you Agness, thank you.

Ruth has just returned after an amazing trip overseas and it's great to see her back.

We are continuing to get new members, even at this late stage in the year. Welcome to Rehana and Louise, who are the latest members. We're so glad to see you.

**Please send me any news you would like to, and may, have published here.**

## TEA TABLE

Please volunteer to do the eats for tea if you have not yet done so. The lists are in the tea cupboard. 2024 is fast approaching so start thinking about the dates that you could commemorate by doing tea for your friends.

## YEAR-END FUNCTION INVITATION



## MENU

### **Starter platters on tables**

Baby marrow and chick pea fritters with a minted yogurt dip  
(wheat and gluten free)

### **Main Meal**

Thinly sliced pink roast beef (Halaal meat to be used), served with  
caramelized red onion "marmalade"

Chicken strips cooked in sumac with lemon and bell peppers, (Halaal  
chicken to be used)

Tender-stem broccoli with roasted sweet potato wedges in a sweet chilli  
dressing with parsley and salad onions, Fresh figs, gorgonzola, and  
raspberries on a rocket leaf bed with gorgonzola and a home-made  
balsamic fig glaze, Steamed baby corn, sugar snap peas, patty-pans,  
and fresh beans, Roasted butternut, and baby potatoes with fresh sage

### **Dessert**

Deconstructed summer berry pavlovas

Triple Chocolate Brownies

If you are attending the function, please bring a gift along for a child. Please wrap it, and mark the age of the child, and gender. Thank you. We will distribute it to children in local orphanages.

I will sadly not be at the year-end function as we are going to Nature's Valley for two weeks. The dates of my holiday completely slipped my mind when we were discussing the dates for the party. I hope you all have a lovely time, enjoy the food, and the company!

As we approach the end of 2023, thank you all for all your kindness, hard work, and support during the year. We feel very happy at the things we have achieved and everything we have learnt. Lets keep that going into next year.

Have a lovely November, stay safe and well.

Danny,

30 October 2023