# First Cut

Communication From Members Of The Guild Of American Papercutters January/ February 2020

### Member Events

### From Danielle Easdale:

I will be participating as a featured artist in the "Seen in Nature" show at the Noyes Gallery in Lincoln, Nebraska for the month of March. There will be an opening event and reception on March 6th between 6pm and 9pm.



From Janelle Washington:

**What**: Thursday, Feb 13, 2020- Art Happy Hour - Cut Valentines Workshop 7pm-9pm Ages 21+ \$25.00

members \$35.00 non members

Where: Artspace- 201 East Davie Street, Raleigh,

North Carolina 27601 919-821-2787

Who: Janelle Washington

Paper cut art work will also be on display February 7-

April 28 2020 at same location.



## Check In With Mindy

Last month I wrote about the gratitude I felt for the GAP board and our papercutting community. And then a few days later a toilet tank cracked in our third floor bathroom sending water through the house into the basement. Needless to say, it was really upsetting especially once I learned walls and ceilings had to be removed due to moisture. We had to leave immediately and it took two weeks to find an apartment where we will be living until March. But guess what? After three weeks of feeling sorry for myself and not feeling much gratitude at all, I snapped out of it. We only lost a mattress and a pair of shoes. Our "stuff" is in intact. My studio, which is right next to where gobs of water came through the ceiling, was not damaged. We are lucky to have great homeowners insurance which is covering the contractors and our apartment rental. Most importantly, so many worse things happen to people that are not reversible. This is fixable.

December 16 was my birthday. You will be reading First Cut after that date. Following Rosa Leff's lead, I took advantage of Facebook's offer to sponsor a fundraiser where friends are invited to donate in honor of your birthday. After sustaining water damage, I realized there was no material possession I wanted but I did like the idea of contributions to GAP. I have been really pleasantly surprised who has donated. Some are close friends but others are acquaintances or distant friends. I encourage all of you to take advantage of this opportunity through Facebook to raise money for GAP.

On another note, last month I wrote about this exhibit I was going to see at the Math Museum in Manhattan. It was fabulous what artists can do with a piece of paper. I was equally excited that many of the artists were women mathematicians and scientists. Most of what I saw reminded me more of Zentangle then papercutting but I still wanted to share a few of my favorite images. Hope you enjoy these images as well.

-Mindy

### Member Events:

From Mindy Shapiro:

Main Line Art Center

Valentines Day Papercut Cards-

Feb 12, 2020

Wed - Wed, 6:30 PM to 8:30 PM

https://public.mainlineart.org/public/ClassDisplay.f

<u>aces</u>

### Mt Airy Learning Tree

Victorian Keepsake decoupage heart boxes

February 6, 2020

Th from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

https://aceweb.mtairylearningtree.org/CourseStatus.awp?&Course=20WACog%20%20%20%20%20&

<u>DirectFrom=Schedule</u>

### From Randall Williams:

#### What & When:

Bluebird Sky Yoga Wall Gallery

February - April

Artists Reception in March (date TBD; includes

artist discussion & wine pairings)

#### Where:

Bluebird Sky Yoga

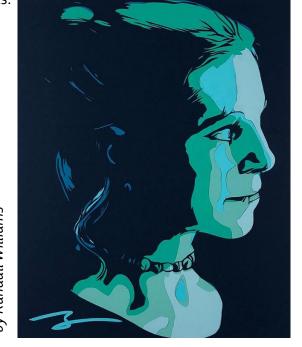
3101 12th St NE, Washington DC 20017

http://www.bluebirdskyyoga.com/local-art

### Who:

I am a Takoma Park, Maryland-based artist whose art consists of hand-cut paper combined with acrylic paints and inks to create layered, expressive images. Inspiration found in nature, literature, and

the arts.



GAP Welcomes New Members

We love our old members, but we especially like to welcome new members. Below is a list of those who have joined us since mid-October. We hope to see some of you at the GAP Conference 2020 in Pittsburgh in June!

Jennifer Hudson

Maryland

https://horsespiritartsgallery.com/jennifer-hudson/ https://www.howardcc.edu/discover/artsculture/horowitz-center/art-galleries/exhibits/2018-19/jen-hudson.html

Jennifer graduated from Baltimore School for the Arts in 2014, with an emphasis in painting.



Papercut by Jennifer Hudson

**Sue Neff** Pittsburgh, PA

https://www.pinterest.com/pin/385691155578621617/ Sue is a retired art teacher in her 8os, with a passion for origami. https://origamiusa.org/origami-group/origamiclub-pittsburgh

Marc Schweizer Switzerland <a href="https://www.schweizerpapierschnitt.ch/">https://www.schweizerpapierschnitt.ch/</a>
Marc is a Board member of Scherenschnitt Schweiz!

### **Annie Howe**

https://www.anniehowepapercuts.com/ Annie Howe is based in Baltimore.

"Astrid In Blue Ombre Paper" by Randall Williams

## Member Events Continued

From Hazel Glass: My work is in gallery show that just opened. A Generous Kingdom IV runs until February 8th Verum Ultimum Gallery, Portland, OR

## Even More New Members!

We love our old members, but we especially like to welcome new members. Below is a list of those who have joined us since mid-October. We hope to see some of you at the GAP Conference 2020 in Pittsburgh in June:

Rebecca Raupach	Pennsylvania
Connie Holman	Texas
Tracy Belford	Florida
Wendy Bale	New York
www.WendyBaleArt1st.com	

Hope Sperling Florida
Pat Federman Pennsylvania
Rita Kopin Maryland
Kelilah Miller Pennsylvania
Frances Halley Pennsylvania
Larissa Vaccaro New Jersey

Members who include a website and, preferably, a personal photo or example of their art in their GAP profile, will occasionally find themselves featured on the GAP website homepage at www.papercutters.org.

## Thank You To Our Recent Donors!

We are especially grateful to the following members and supporters who recently made special donations to benefit the work of GAP. Donations may be made on the GAP homepage at www.papercutters.org or mailed to: Guild of American Papercutters, P.O. Box 384, 214 S. Harrison Ave., Somerset, PA 15501.

Sandra Gilpin Dianne Peterson Susan Throckmorton Beth Wunder Sister Clarice Steinfeldt Marie-Helene Grabman Russell Morgan, Jr

## Monologue Of A Master



Volha Baburyna, Belorus

https://en.belapan.by/archive/2013/08/29/en\_media\_vy\_cinanki/

Volha is a member of the Belarusian Union of masters of folk art! She created (she uses only scissors!) an a now-famous exhibition of paper cuts illustrating articles of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, on display in Minsk!

This Youtube video documents her artwork:
<a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=18LcY-kCTBM">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=18LcY-kCTBM</a>
Праект "Маналог Майстра"/Monologue of Master
<a href="http://www.bycrafts.com">http://www.bycrafts.com</a>

Human Rights Declaration cut out in paper... It's difficult to even imagine. Yet Volha Baburyna, the protagonist of the new episode of Monologue of a Master, did exactly that! See her make old traditions the staff of today and crush calcified stereotypes to open the door into the mysterious world of Belarusian vycinanka, the art of cutting paper designs. Watch the Roots episode and share it with your friends in any country! There are English and Belarusian subtitles that can be turned on in the video settings.

## Harris Award Nominations

At every conference we offer the Harris Award named for Dick & Sukey Harris. This award honors a member who has demonstrated an outstanding level of support for the Guild and for papercutting itself. To nominate a member of the Guild please email us their name and a brief statement explaining the reasons for the nomination. We kindly ask that you put "Harris Award" in the subject line.

## A Note from Melanie, VP of Membership

It came to my attention recently that an email scammer has posed as GAP. Here are some red flags to help you avoid email scams:

- If you receive a warning that all your profile data will be deleted, the email is not from us. Delete the email. (We never delete profiles unless users as us to do so.)
- If you are asked to renew your membership and you think you have already renewed, go directly to papercutters.org and log in to your account to check your status. Do not click links in the email.
- Even if the sender is "Guild of American Papercutters", check the actual email address of the sender. If it is something other than admin@papercutters.org, gapguild@gmail.com, or a trusted member, it is likely a scam.
- Avoid clicking links or opening attachments in emails that contain little text . "Here is something you might be interested in" is an example of a phishy email.
- If you click on links or open attachments before realizing that they are illegitimate, run an antivirus scan. If you entered your password in a page that you were taken to, consider changing that password after the scan.
- If you are ever unsure, email us at gapguild@gmail.com. I will usually respond within 2 days.

Email scammers have become increasingly sophisticated, but with these guidelines you should be able to avoid any problems!

# Papercutting and Zentangle® By Mindy Shapiro

(www.personalizedpapercuts.com)

It's hard to believe that I am in my 20<sup>th</sup> year of papercutting. It seems that the possibilities of what one can do with paper has expanded so very much. Every time I look at the GAP Facebook page, I learn something new. Ever time I buy a new papercutting book, I see something new. It is all so inspiring. About three years ago I felt the desire to do something different with paper, but instead of cutting it, I wanted to draw on it...that is where Zentangle® comes in.

Some of you might be asking "What is Zentangle®?" It actually is all in the name. It is a meditative, relaxed and very fun way to draw structured patterns. Micron pens work great for their thin point, and sometimes designs are enhanced using a pencil and a stamp to shade which results in three dimensional looking designs. You can also introduce color into tangles as well. There are no reasers; there are no mistakes. It is about the process and not the product.

If you are a doodler, then you have the experience...



# Papercutting and Zentangle® Continued

...mindlessly drawing, maybe while listening to lectures, talking on the phone, etc. And this is what differentiates doodling from Zentangle® because Zentangle® is a mindfulness practice. Each stroke is deliberate- just like each cut in a papercut is deliberate. In fact, the tag line for Zentangle® is "Anything is possible, one stroke at a time." There are hundreds of tangle patterns inspired by everything under the sun -- historic floors and ceiling tiles, shapes, etchings, wood carvings, old wall paper, flowers, trees, etc.

The founders of Zentangle® are Maria Thomas and Rick Roberts. She is a world-renowned letter artist and calligrapher who described to her partner Rick how creating patterns around her letters made her feel good, that it was timeless. Rick, who had been a monk for 17 years, told her she was describing meditation. They wondered together if they could create a system to teach so that others could have this experience. Together they created the Zentangle® System.

In papercutting you either have to know how to draw to some degree or use copyright free designs. Some people have the amazing talent to cut based on imagination. Every year I go to the Chinese New year celebration at the Philadelphia Museum of Art just to see the Chinese papercut artists do just this. You can tell him what you want and within a minute he has cut it our and handed it to you. In fact, he has a sign indicating just that! "Designs in 60 seconds or less." His papercuts are primarily animals but I bet he could do other things as well. In Zentangle®, you do not need to know how to draw at all. And the beauty of this is that by using your instinct and following the directions for the Zentangle® patterns or creating ones as you mindfully draw, you create beautiful art.

While you can tangle anything as long as you have the right pen, Zentangle® students are taught on the 3.5 square art paper tiles. The official tiles are imported from Italy on beautiful paper. Water color paper works nicely as well, but really, you can tangle on anything. The 3.5 square is the standard size because it takes less than an hour to complete one and sometimes you want to complete what you start.

# When one starts a Zentangle® the first thing you do is:

- 1. Appreciate the 3.5 tile for a moment.
- 2. Take a pencil and draw one dot in each corner and connect them to create a border.
- 3. Draw something called a string. This is a shape that can be a zigzag, an X, a circle or anything that creates sections. The string becomes invisible as you draw and connect the patterns. It is not erased and becomes part of the design.
- 4. Using the black Micron pen draw a different tangle in each section remembering to rotate the tile as you draw in each section.
- 5. Shade your tangles.
- 6. Sign and date on the back.

Connections between Zentangle® and Papercutting

- 1. Both are meditative experiences. Time passes by without realizing it because one is present with the process. Or as my 10 year old says "Mom, I'm in the zone."
- 2. You can create a papercut snowflake that can be used as a mandala pattern for tangling. Make multiple copies of the snowflake to create different Zentangle® mandalas.
- 3. Papercutting is about negative and positive space. Zentangle® is about empty space (negative), colored in space (positive) and sometimes shading.
- 4. When you first learn to Zentangle®, you do it as nonrepresentational art. Sometimes you might decide to tangle inside a recognizable shape like an animal, a heart, a vase; it then becomes representational but it never has to.
- 5. Both are inexpensive art forms requiring paper, pen, pencil, a knife or scissors, and paper.
- 6. You will likely find more connections as you explore thus art form and experiment with how it can invigorate your papercutting. For now, enjoy the samples and may they inspire you to draw and cut your own.

\*This article was originally printed in First Cut in the Summer of 2015.



## The Guild of American Papercutters, P.O. 384, 214 S. Harrison Avenue, Somerset, Pennsylvania 15501

www.papercutters.org GAPquild@gmail.com

# Prospectus - "Ex Libris" - GAP Mini - Exhibit

April 15 – September 15, 2020 Date of Receiving: April 5

Raise awareness for National Library Week, April 19 – 25, 2020, and celebrate the art of papercutting by designing a cut-paper book-plate to be exhibited first at GAP's National Office in Somerset, PA. These unframed, original artworks will be easily mailed for this show, and will also be eligible to become a traveling show, hosted by GAP members around the country. After they arrive in Somerset, they will be scanned and then inserted in clear envelopes to protect them. The scans will provide a lasting record of the show and will allow *People's Choice selections to be printed as book-plates*.

### Size:

Papercuttings original in design and execution, **6**" **X 4**", are invited to be submitted for exhibition in the foyer GAP glass case at Laurel Arts, Somerset. When these p-cuttings are exhibited, a small number on ½" circle will be attached to front corner. The numbers will be listed with name of artist on a group identification page attached to the case.

#### Fee:

Guild members may enter one or two pieces for a flat fee of \$20.

This fee will help to offset costs of printing **a people's choice selection**. (Membership dues must be paid in advance.) All entries will be accepted; there will be no jury process.

Write Check to GAP, indicate *Ex Libris* on Memo line. Mail with entry form to: Guild of American Papercutters, attn. Rebecca Raupach, P.O. 384, Somerset, PA. 15501

### Design Requirements:

The design can be horizontal or vertical. It must be backed by **matboard** which does not exceed 6" X 4", and which may only add strength or provide a border to the design.

Each 6" X 4" submission must **include either the words** *From the Library of* or *Ex Libris* so that it can become a useful book-plate. The design's calligraphy can

be mixed medium combined with cut paper. The matboard back of each piece must have secure, legible identification: artist name, email, and postal address.

#### Limitations:

Neither GAP nor Laurel Arts will assume responsibility for damage or loss. Artists will indicate on entry form whether the cutting is to be returned immediately after September, or if it can become the mini-box show property of GAP so that it is available to be used in future guild shows. If you request immediate return, please add the return postage fee to your \$20 entry fee before mailing it with your artwork.

## Entry Forms:

Must be completed in duplicate for each entry.

One copy will be attached to reverse side of each work submitted.

The second copy will be filed in a binder.

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

May this work be exhibited online? \_\_\_\_\_

Title, if any \_\_\_\_\_

Can this work become permanent

Entry #1	Entry #2
Lifti y #1	
Address	Address
Email	Email
Phone	Phone
Title, if any	Title, if any
May this work be exhibited online?	May this work be exhibited online?
Can this work become permanent	Can this work become permanent
Property of GAP?	Property of GAP?
Do you request immediate return?	Do you request immediate return?
Entry #1	Entry #2
Liiciy mi	
Address	Address
Email	Email

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

May this work be exhibited online? \_\_\_\_\_

Title, if any \_\_\_\_\_

Can this work become permanent

Property of GAP?

Do you request immediate return?

# Remembering Sukey Harris



Sharon Schaich, GAP President 1999-2001:

Dick [Sukey's husband] called me last week to say that he had found a note which Sukey intended to send to all those GAP members who sent her birthday cards on her 85th on September 4. She told me several times that she intended to sent a thank you to everyone, even though I told her it was not necessary. I asked her how many cards and notes she received, but she didn't reply, only that she really wanted to send thanks.

And now she is gone, and what a loss it is to all of us who knew her. I met her in the mid-70's at a show in a big barn in Schaefferstown PA and she was wearing a bandana to cover her hair loss after chemo for breast cancer. She invited me to visit her at her home in Annville PA and we became friends forever. Sukey gathered a group of Pennsylvania papercutters and this was the nucleus for GAP in 1988. She was the first editor for First Cut and served in that capacity for many years. She has friends all over the world because of this, and in 1996 Sukey, Dick, Ed and I traveled to Holland and Germany to visit artists in their homes. This was the result of Sukey's friendship with the wife of the German ambassador to the US who planned our itinerary and arranged for us to stay with many of them.

Ed's diary of the trip was published in FirstCut and soon our members began to show an interest to visit papercutters in Switzerland. A group of 18 GAP members traveled by train to Bern, Zurich, Basel, and many small villages. Our GAP Collections were held in many cities in the US and Sukey was always a part of them. So many planning meetings were held around her dining room table in Annville. I could go on and on but for now I want you to enjoy Sukey's attached note to you. You will see a beautiful fraktur of an angel surrounded by her roses on the death notice. Her calligraphy even came to me on a Thanksgiving note which she was able to do on her computer with a Microsoft drawing tablet. She never stopped creating, with paper, with pen and ink and watercolor, with carved gourds from her garden, with flowers around her home, with open hearth cooking in the log house. I know that our GAP members will be able to think of many more of her creations.

## Sukey's unfinished note:

"Such a cheery surprise to receive your special card and sweet note! Yes, Sharon discovered my birthday was coming... It's a mystery how she passed the word around! I never dreamed of getting old...so remember this, 85 is not old!

Papercutting friends are some of the best and the friendships span many years, and trips and wonderful times together...meeting some of the best in the world and seeing the cuttings "for real" of our long time idols... The clever ideas, the innovative designs, the skills of knife, scissors, cutting such a myriad of papers, are wonderful to behold...and the fact that GAP is still moving along with its Collection/Convention, and newletter, is a real credit to those who have so carefully guided GAP thru the years, and now we are being led, fully into the computer age and going strong!

I hope you are still cutting. If not, that you still enjoy and appreciate the superb artistry that is out there and that we can see every day in 3-D advertisements in all the media.

I wanted to send "thank you notes" in October to so many of you dear friends who sent cards and notes. I was in the hospital 4 days just after my birthday, and it's taken me a long time to bounce back and here it is November already...I would have liked to be more prompt."



The Annville Log Cabin

## A Note From Dick

Dear GAP friends...

Sukey greatly appreciated those of you who responded to Sharon's suggestion to send notes and cards to Sukey on her 85th birthday.

Sukey truly intended to thank each of you for your kindness by sending you a personal note. Unfortunately she was overcome by events and was unable to send you her appreciation.

I have found the unfinished draft below on her computer, and have asked Sharon to send you a copy.

I thank you all for your kindness toward our lovely Sukey.

-Dick Harris

## A Very Special Request

With heavy hearts we must let you know that Mary Lou (Sukey) Harris has succumbed to an illness which began in 1974. She shouldered her burden with a joyful heart.

She was a wonderful daughter, sister, wife, mother, grandmother, flutist, artist, teacher, gardener, schoolmate, and a truly loving friend to many. We are all diminished by her departure.

At Sukey's request, there will be no public service, viewing, or memorial of her passing.

In her memory, love your family, paint a picture, plant a rose, help someone in need of your help, tell a friend that you love them, and say a prayer.

# Take A Look At How GAP Got Its Start!

Traveling Artists: The Earliest
Meetings of GAP
from the notes of Trudy
Kaufmann, GAP's first Treasurer

Note: Looking over Trudy's notes from the first 10 years or so of GAP's existence, I was struck by the various creative venues and museum-hopping! Here's a rough list, excerpted from her notes, to give you a sense of the Guild members' travels! From Hershey to Philly to DC, Maryland to Germany and Holland, and out to Annville to Sukey and Dick Harris' lovingly restored log house... –J.F.



- February 23, 1988: Twenty paper cutters met in Hershey, PA, and agreed to form regional paper cutting guild
- May 1, 1988: Business meeting at Paul VI Institute for the Arts in Washington, DC, at the opening of the Dan Paulos Show.
- Oct 9, 1988: Third meeting of the Guild at the National Museum of American Jewish History in Philadelphia; Karen Schloss made all the arrangements
- February 12-May 14: Hearts and Flowers Show at Hershey Museum of American Life. Walter Von Gunten came to the closing of the show with some of his cuttings. On Feb 12, the meeting of the Mid-Atlantic Chapter of GAP was held there.
- May 20, 1989: Guild meeting at Montpelier Cultural Arts Center in Laurel MD. David Wisniewski's show of paper cut illustrations of *The Warrior and the Wiseman*.
- October 14, 1989: Fall Meeting of the Mid- Atlantic Chapter was held at the Schwenkfelder Library, Pennsburg, PA. Yael Hoz arranged the meeting. We viewed some of the early cuttings they have in their collection.
- January 28, 1990: Winter meeting was held at Landis Valley Farm Museum. The curator displayed a collection of antique papercuttings. We had a informal cutting bee to share ideas and techniques with fellow cutters.
- May 5, 1990: Meeting at the Bucks County Free Library at the Mercer Museum in Doylestown, PA. We saw papercuttings and silhouettes from the Mercer Museum collection. Blanche Turner presented a workshop on silhouettes. Blanche's design for a logo for the guild was selected. Paul Beal's letterhead design was selected. The logo will be incorporated in the center of Paul's design.
- October 14, 1990: Meeting at the store of Karen Shain Schloss in Cheltenham, PA. Karen presented a workshop on framing and mounting.

- December 12, 1990, to January 10, 1991: Guild show of papercuttings as part of the annual Holiday Show at the Nabisco Brands Gallery at the Nabisco corporate headquarters in East Hanover, New Jersey. Clair Archer put a lot of energy into this project. There were 53 works by 42 Guild artists. On Jan. 6, the Guild meeting was held there.
- May 2, 1991: Spring Guild meeting at Steve Woodbury's home near Washington, DC. Steve shared his extensive collection of papercutting books. We all bought our own books and cuttings to share
- August 4-25, 1991: Guild Show at the Washington County Museum of Fine Arts in Hagerstown, MD. Guild meeting on the 5<sup>th</sup>.
- October 12, 1991: Guild meeting at the Art Center, Laurel, Maryland. The program was a presentation of David Wisniewski's shadow puppetry.

  Birthday Calendars and Coffee Mugs were ready for sale!
- **Feb. 15, 1992**: GAP meeting at **Sukey and Dick Harris' house, Annville, PA**. Everyone brought things to share.
- May 3, 1992: Spring guild Meeting at the home of Sigrid Gottmann-Werdnik in Bethesda, MD. We viewed an extensive collection of *scherenschnitte* and silhouettes.
- August 10 to September 19, 1992: Traveling Show, "Shear Variety" at the Bedford Arts Center, Bedford, PA.
- October 11, 1992: Fall GAP meeting at Hershey Museum, Hershey, PA. Betty Wells presented a program on designing Paper Dolls.
- Feb 13, 1993: Meeting at Winterthur Museum, Wilmington, DE. Viewed special exhibit of silhouettes, early cuttings, old band-cut paper dolls, books and reference material. This was followed by a tour of the galleries.
- February, 1993: Traveling show "Shear Variety" is at the Blair Art Museum in Hollidaysburg, PA.
- May 2, 1993: GAP Meeting, House Warming and Show and Tell was at the home of Walter Von Gunten.
- May, 1993: Traveling show "Shear Variety" is at the Lititz Museum, Main St., Lititz, PA.
- October 9, 1993: GAP tour of Ted Naos Studio in Baltimore. We learned about his card business.
- February 27, 1994: GAP meeting at the Cooper-Hewitt Museum in New York City.
- April 1994: Holland and Germany Trip
- June 25-26, 1994: COLLECTION 94, Towson State University, Towson MD; Kerch McConlogue organized this collection. The new traveling show was premiered.
- October 2, 1994: GAP meeting at Sukey Harris' Log house in Annville, PA.
- FALL 1994: Membership in GAP reaches 318!