

Meet our Teachers



Davina Achen, WA

One of my first ever memories is my grandmother teaching me to crochet a chain so I would leave her alone so she could watch "All My Children" in peace. I also remember her surprise when I had chained thru the whole skein of yarn. In the 40+ years since that day, I have done everything I could to learn more and more.

As I grew up, my grandmothers thought me all the fiber arts, knit, crochet, embroidery and the like. In my rebellious teen years I experimented with clothing design, paper arts and poetry. In adulthood, I discovered the dark allure of power tools. I have spent the past decade mixing and mingling ideas and concepts together to produce the ideas and concepts that magically inhabit my brain until they reach fruition.

Over the years I have taught all ages, from Brownies to Eagle Scouts and beyond. I have published several tutorials on everything from Kumihimo to Lampwork to Resin Jewelry. I have won several awards over the years but the one I am most proud of is winning "Best of Show" in Tatting at the Spokane Interstate Fair this past September.



Debbie Arnold, CO

I have been playing with thread and yarn since I was about 9, but only learned to tat in 1995. I didn't like tatting very much due to hiding those darned ends until Randy and Gary Houtz showed me how to tat over tails and how to do the magic thread trick. After that, I tatted frequently and thoroughly enjoyed the technique. I have been designing patterns since 1999 and enjoy teaching intermediate and advanced techniques.



Jan Barwick, ID

I've been tatting for 31 years and joined the Shuttlebirds Tatting Guild in March 2011. I have demonstrated at several functions in this area, earned many ribbons at the local fairs and been teaching both beginners and classes for the guild members. I also participate in the Tat and Chat group that meets at a yarn shop in Coeur d'Alene.



Mimi Dillman, WA

Mimi has been tatting since the summer of 1982, when she taught herself the basics from a couple of general crafting books (back when there was no Internet!). After moving to the Seattle area a few years later, she joined the Lacemakers of Puget Sound in its first year, where she was lucky enough to learn more advanced techniques from mentors such as Monica (Mona) Hahn, Bev Dillon and Diana Howe. Once she got the cluny down from Mona, the rest was history! She has taught at several Shuttlebirds' Tatting Workshops; two Palmetto Tat Days workshops, Georgia Seitz' online class, as well as workshops in California, Oregon and British Columbia. Her patterns have appeared in *Tatting With Friends* (Georgia Seitz, editor), the Bulletin of the IOLI, Canadian Lacemaker Gazette, and Lacemakers of Puget Sound and Heartland Lace

Guild newsletters, along with the Online Tatting class.



Venessa Godfrey, OR

I began tatting in 1980 in Biloxi, Mississippi. Since then I have lived in 7 states and both taught tatting and taken classes. With each class I learn new techniques and each time I teach, I learn even more.

I have taught several times at Shuttlebirds as well as at local stores, schools and to individuals. Each time I have the opportunity to teach I am enriched by the experience. I also enjoy demonstrating at fairs or other venues. I sometimes tat while standing in line at stores.



Patty Markley, WA

I am a member of Shuttlebirds Tatting Guild and have been tatting for about 20 years. I have taught at Shuttlebirds workshops and also at Camp Wanna Tat. My tatting has won blue ribbons from the Spokane Interstate Fair. Other interests include quilting and costume construction. I am married with two grown daughters and 3.5 grandchildren.



Dale Pomeroy, UT

Tatting is a branch of lace made by a lark's spur/lark's head knot on a running line using the hands and a shuttle, needle or hook. Through an extensive self-study program, I have been actively involved with this form of lace-making since I was twelve. I have been teaching tatting since 1981 at various needlework shops in Utah, the IOLI Convention and Shuttlebirds workshops.



Natalie Rogers, WA

I was introduced to tatting in August 2012 by Donna Barnes. I have enjoyed crafts my whole life and was quick to pick up on the basics of tatting. I started teaching friends and family how to tat within a few months of picking up my first shuttle, because the easiest way for me to know I've learned a new skill is to teach it.

My co-blogger, Davina, and I run the Shuttlebirds blog. We love hosting challenges and hearing from our readers. I have challenged myself to complete new tatting pieces often to improve my skill. When I first started, I kept pace at around one new motif a week. This has slowed down as life got busier and the patterns became larger, but tatting is still a highlight of my week. I love the challenge of learning new techniques.

My first designs happened by accident as variations on patterns I was completing.

Since those first few happy accidents, I have enjoyed purposefully designing many more tatted pieces. I have actively participated in several of the Shuttlebirds Tatting Guild's demonstrations. It is a delight introducing others to the art of tatting. I had the honor of teaching at the 2014 and 2015 workshops. They were wonderful experiences and I learned from my students just as they learned from me. I am happy to be back again with new things to share. I hope to see you in one of my classes or get to know you during the meals and friendly competitions!



Jeanie Schekel, UT

It is a sad day if I don't do any tatting. I enjoyed tatting for 56 years, knowing only the basics. I was limited to what I could tat without adding thread. I had only 4 tatting books and a box of *The Workbasket* magazines. Then the miracle in 2010, I found someone else who knew how to tat. In one afternoon she introduced me to continuous tatting, adding threads and hiding ends. In 2011, I was introduced to the Internet. In less than one year, I learned about many varieties of shuttles, threads and intermediate to advanced techniques. The Tatters Across Time program was a very enjoyable, valuable and enlightening experience.

I have taught tatting for 40 years. I teach groups and private lessons weekly, and enjoy re-writing old patterns. Currently I am writing a book which includes a glossary of over 400 terms and a step by step "How To Manual" for all levels of tatters.



Georgia Seitz, IL

It is hard to believe that I have been tatting for 36 years. It was in '79 that I actually learned to tat and in 1985 began teaching. In 1995 I attended my first IOLI convention. Since then I have taught at convention many times and several local workshops with groups across the country. I have written a series of tatting books, edited two tatting compilations and filmed my first tatting video. Additional books are in the works. I also teach the Online Tatting Class which is celebrating 16 years online.



Jessica Spaulding, WA

Jessica remembers being fascinated as a child by her grandmother's tatting. She finally decided to take the plunge and learn while in college and has been obsessed with tatting ever since. She lives in Seattle, Washington and blogs about tatting at Snapdragonlace.com. Her hand-dyed threads and tatting patterns are available for sale on Etsy and Craftsy. This will be her 6th year teaching at Shuttlebirds.