

❖ Northwest News ❖

Association of Northwest Weavers' Guilds

northwestweavers.org

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Many guilds have come back together after a summer break and are now focused on programs and projects. As you look ahead to the end of 2012 and the beginning of 2013, here are some things to consider:

1. **Renewing your guild's ANWG membership for 2013.** ANWG membership (\$1 per member through your guild) gives you a special rate at our biennial conferences, an opportunity to nominate a guild member for a grant to attend a conference, and, in even numbered years an opportunity to apply for a guild workshop grant. The classified section of the ANWG website is free to all ANWG members giving you a place to buy and sell fiber items and equipment. Membership also puts you and your guild in touch with other weavers, spinners and fiber artists in six U.S. northwest states and three western Canadian provinces.
2. **Attending the upcoming ANWG Conference and workshops June 17-23, in Bellingham, WA.** You can check out the details on the conference website: www.anwg-conference-2013.com. Watch for the latest newsletter and be choosing your seminars and workshops so you are ready for **registration, beginning in mid-January 2013**. Great workshops, outstanding instructors and special events are being planned.
3. **Nominating a member for a \$400 conference grant** for "Crossing Borders, Crossing Threads" in Bellingham in June of 2013.
4. **Sharing some of the good program ideas, projects and workshops your guild has done** with other guilds through our ANWG newsletters.
5. **Adding the new website address (www.northwestweavers.org) in each of your guild's newsletters** or member communications so all can be aware of news and events available throughout our NW region.

As we approach the holiday season and consider our many blessings, I am thankful for the friendship, creativity, and the ability to stretch and grow with others who share my interest and passion for working with fiber. I hope that your guild is providing the same for you, and that ANWG can be a help and support to all of our guilds.

Mary Anna Swinnerton



WORKSHOP REPORTS

Many guilds that received an ANWG grant to hold a workshop this year have now completed those workshops. "Secrets of Creativity", an Anita Luvera Mayer workshop, held by the Eugene Guild was reported in the Spring 2012 ANWG Newsletter. Following are some of the reports submitted to the Education Chair as required by the grants.

Skagit Valley Guild

Thanks to the efforts of many, the ANWG grant sponsored workshop "Novel and Unique Ways to Improve Your Weaving" was a success. The workshop was intended to cater to our general membership as well as the newer weavers in our group, and in this we succeeded. Half of the participants were beginning weavers and for several of them it was their first guild workshop.

The workshop included ideas of how to emphasize the beauty of special yarns, including novelty and handspun yarns, creative uses of thrums as well as braiding and ideas for embellishments. Tips and techniques of weaving and loom care were also covered.

The Skagit Valley Weavers Guild extends many thanks to ANWG for the grant that enabled us to offer this special workshop to our membership. We also want to thank Robyn Spady who was flexible in redesigning her workshop uniquely for us and accommodating weavers of all levels of expertise. Thank you to the Skagit Valley Weavers Guild members who contributed to make this workshop a success.



Threadbenders' Guild

Ten Threadbenders and three members of Central Oregon Spinners and Weavers, along with 2 members auditing, met with Sarah Pilgrim for three days in September to dig deeply into "Warp and Skein Painting-Not Your High School Chemistry Class".

During the first two days, Sarah gave instructions for three techniques of painting threads, as well as three methods for processing the threads. Having been encouraged by Sarah to experiment with different fibers, we were intrigued by the varying results, e.g., the sheen of tencel alongside a cotton, a variety of wools and how they took the dye differently.

On the third day of the workshop, Sarah held two seminars on topics chosen by the guild, "More Ideas on Using Painted Threads" and "Using Various Fibers". Everyone left with some good, useable ideas and tips.

We are grateful to ANWG for the grant monies that helped make this workshop available to our members, as well as our guests.



Montana Association of Weavers and Spinners

MAWS 2012 was very privileged to have Sara Lamb as one of the conference instructors. Sara's classes were some of the first to fill up and it was obvious from those who registered early, that they were coming to learn from her.

Sara has been spinning, dyeing, weaving, knitting and learning new things for over 35 years. She is the author of Woven Treasures (Interweave Press, 2009).

Attendees who took her classes commented on the fact that she was well organized, and a very patient instructor with weavers of all skill levels signed up for her classes.

Sara presented a wonderful Keynote Address entitled "Color and the Creative Process". Through her spoken words and a beautiful slide show, she demonstrated how she uses nature to inspire her woven works.

Sara was also asked to choose the winner of the Handweavers Guild of America Award from entries in the open show.

ANWG provided financial support to MAWS, enabling them to have Sara hold workshops on Inkle Weaving, Card Weaving, Pickup Bands, and a 2-day Post Conference Class for Knotted Cut Pile Rugs on June 8, 9, 11, and 12.



Midnight Shuttles Spinners and Weavers

On April 21 and 22, 2012 MSSW held a workshop with Elaine Duncan entitled "Colour and Design Exercises for the Fibre Artist". Eleven members participated.

Elaine led the guild through 21 excellent exercises during the two day workshop. The samples prepared in each exercise were wrapped on strips of cardstock with double-sided sticky tape. After covering colour definitions, *i.e.*, colour, hue, primaries, secondaries, tertiaries, intensity, value, tints, tones, and shades, Elaine took them through the exercises.

The exercises included using the grey scale to describe and number colors of yarns; adding white, black, and grey to pure color; selecting tints, tones, and shades of a hue; developing colour schemes with split complementary and triadic complementary colours; finding examples of monochromatic, analogous, complementary, split complementary, and triadic complementary schemes in magazines and calendars. Other exercises moved on to Colour Bridging, using the grey scale and moving toward the center of the color wheel using tones and shades until they blended in the center. Yarns with a greyed hue were selected and placed with others to make them darker then lighter, brighter then duller.

Comments from the participants near the end of the day:

- Very engrossing. Makes you do what you have put off doing
- Excellent instructor, very well organized, liked hands on, liked way we worked our way through colour wheel



(Workshop reports continued.)

Richmond Weavers and Spinners Guild

Rosalie Neilson presented her two-day workshop, “Colour and Design in Rep Weave” to 16 weavers at the Richmond Arts Centre on Sept. 29 & 30, 2012. The weavers’ experience levels ranged from advanced beginner to very experienced. Most of the weavers, however, had little prior experience with Rep Weave.

This workshop was booked one year in advance of the presentation. In April of 2012, Rosalie provided us with the 40-page Workshop Instruction Manual. We made copies immediately and handed them all out by the end of May, which was the cut-off for payment for the workshop. We were then to create our sampler warp from the assortment of profiles she provided. The workshop coordinators felt it was very helpful to the participants to have the instructions so far ahead of the workshop. The weavers had lots of time to really absorb the information and get help if they needed it. The participants from the Richmond Guild met in groups several times help each other with the manual and exchange help with colour choices.

One interesting challenge for the workshop coordinators and Rosalie, as well, was yarn conversion. The yarn Rosalie Neilson prefers to use is very costly and hard to obtain in Canada. So, initially, we had to send Rosalie samples of yarn that was more suitable for us. Rosalie did some testing with our samples and determined they would be fine for the sampler. This was a considerable cost saving for us.

This workshop is not a round robin. Rosalie spent time with each weaver to check their progress. She gave constructive colour critiques and suggestions for future projects. We also had a guild member act as a designated helper for both days of the workshop. This person did not participate in any weaving, but just rotated around from weaver to weaver helping with anything necessary. This was an intense, informative and challenging workshop. We were taught a lashing on technique that Rosalie uses to control warp tension with Rep Weave. This was brand new to many of the weavers. The less experienced weavers also learned much about profile drafting and block theory.

Rosalie gave a very interesting group lecture on colour and yarn choices. This was visually supported with many of her own exquisite pieces that she brought along to show us. Several of the pieces she brought were featured on the cover of Handwoven.

To summarize, there were many really positive learning opportunities that came from this workshop. We learned a lot about Rep weave! Many of the weavers were pushed beyond their own weaving comfort zones because they had to master new ideas. This workshop was a challenge. Everyone basically completed a beautiful rep sampler. We did not cut them off the looms, but unrolled all of them and discussed each one.

The Richmond Weavers and Spinners Guild would like to thank Gloria Lebowitz and the ANWG for their financial support with this workshop.



(Instructor Rosalie Neilson is fourth from the right in the back row.)

Desert Sage Spinners and Weavers Guild

The Desert Sage Spinners & Weavers Guild (located in Oliver, BC in the sunny Canadian Okanagan) was thrilled to be able to sponsor Sarah Swett to instruct our very first tapestry workshop. This was designed as a 4-day workshop to allow participants to delve into this medium and immerse themselves in their own work and creativity. Immerse they did!

Sarah framed the workshop as “The Value of Value” and provided rich learning opportunities for everyone. Working with perspectives, colour and values, and applied mentoring, Sarah was able to bring her incredible expertise to the class, such that everyone found their own creative skills quickly developing. Participants ranged from weavers with no tapestry experience to those with solid practice and by the end of the four days Sarah had skillfully supported all levels to increased knowledge in the world of tapestry.

Sarah is a remarkable woman, a gifted weaver, and an amazing instructor! She displayed samples of her work, demonstrated intricate details in hands’ on sessions, provided one-on-one mentoring ~ all of it combining to create an exceptional experience for all participants. While lunch was provided each day for everyone, we found that lunch breaks were only taken with enough time to visit the buffet, then back to the looms.

We were able to hold this class in a beautiful old school building in Penticton, now home of the ‘Shatford Centre for the Arts’. Our classroom was filled with natural light and the space was ideal for our tapestry work. Tapestry weaving is often correlated to a meditative practice. This seemed true when you took a quiet moment to watch fifteen heads’ bowed to their loom, weaving without comment – I swear if you listened carefully, you would have heard the looms singing!

We want to thank ANWG for helping realize this workshop with your gracious funding – it has been an absolute pleasure and we are now discussing forming a tapestry group in our guild to continue with our collective learning.



Portland Handweavers Guild

“If you have always wanted to understand weave structure so that you could design structures yourself instead of having to “shop” in books and magazines for a draft, this is the class for you, a workshop focusing on the structure of woven fabrics.”

Seventeen members of the Portland Handweavers Guild gathered to take Sharon Alderman’s two-day workshop “Mastering Weave Structure” in March of 2012. Comments from participants are shown here.

“Sharon went through examples for working out our own weave structures as well as determining drafts, etc. There was something for everyone no matter what the skill level was. The participants appreciated the grant very much as the fee was subsequently reduced.”

“Overall, the workshop really inspired me to work on developing my own designs rather than rely on the “cookbook” method of copying a weave structure I find interesting.”

“It was Sharon Alderman, how could we not learn something. What was great for me was when she was explaining a certain fabric with her drawings of the structure, I got it, and the design potential, and was really excited to work with it.”

“Sharon did a great job of gearing the workshop to different levels of weaving experience from beginners to advanced. She bases the workshop on her book, Mastering Weave Structures, going chapter by chapter and using samples of each weave structure to illustrate, then let us examine. Even though her book is well-written and detailed, it was very valuable to have things explained and be able to ask questions to clarify points. She was also very generous in sharing general weaving tips and tricks that have made her successful.”

Out and About in the Guilds

We would like to hear from you. As your guild plans for a new year of weaving activities, keep this column in mind. Other guilds are looking for great ideas for their new year as well.

Send information on your guilds special projects, challenges and celebrations to ghosttrail@msn.com. Your guild’s “doings” can then be shared with others. Pictures are always welcome.

(Workshop reports continued.)

Alpine Weavers and Spinners Guild

Alpine Spinners and Weavers Guild of Kalispell, MT held a “Beaded Tapestry Woven Bag” workshop on September 22, 2012 with instructor Joan Contraman.

The class started with Joan providing a demonstration of how the wooden looms were to be warped. Joan’s pegged loom has the advantage of being warped front and back, so actually 2 bags can be woven, to take advantage of the entire warp.

Every kit contained abundant “butterflies” of various yarns which students were encouraged to mix, match, and complement in “waves” as the weaving progressed. The kits also contained beads, needles and thread; and Joan demonstrated how to include strings of seed beads to highlight areas within the weaving. There were samples on display for weavers to study.

Lastly, students were instructed how to finish, back, line and assemble the bags and how to make and attach a handle. This was a full day class and students were pleased with their one-of-a-kind creations.

Many thanks to Joan Contraman, the Alpine Guild, and to ANWG for providing the gracious workshop support.



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If you would like more information on any of the workshops reported in this issue, you can contact the Guild Representative through their email links on the ANWG website northwestweavers.org/member-guilds/.

2013 CONFERENCE

Bundling against the cold of an approaching winter I am thinking of summer and all the wonderful workshops, seminars and classes we have put together for the 2013 ANWG NW Weavers Conference, June 17- 23, 2013, Western Washington University, Bellingham, WA.

The Publicity team is preparing the registration booklet and we anticipate its publication sometime mid-November. The booklet will be available as a downloadable PDF. It will include a printable registration form with pricing options for those more comfortable with a pen than a keyboard.

The November conference newsletter will include a link to our website and from there you can download and print the booklet. So please sign up for the newsletter, if you haven’t already, by visiting the [conference website](#). We also encourage you to print the registration booklet or registration form for any of your guild members who do not have computer access. We will be posting the link to the registration booklet in a press release to ANWG member guilds. Actual registration will open in early or mid-January. We will announce that date as soon as it is available. We encourage everyone to register online as it is the fastest and easiest method.

The website has detailed information on the shows and on guild booths too. Don't forget to sign up...the deadline is near and there are still a few spaces. Keep working on your goodie bag contributions! We are looking forward to seeing you in Bellingham in June.

Rae Deane Leatham, Conference Chair



ANWG CONFERENCE GRANTS

The Education Committee is now accepting applications for individual grants to attend the 2013 ANWG Conference at Bellingham, WA June 17 - 23, 2012.

For application information go to northwestweavers.org/member-resources/. The information you need is there under 2013 Conference Grant Form. Application letters should be sent to glolebow@yahoo.com.

DEADLINE: NOVEMBER 30, 2012

Out and About in the Guilds

At the Annual Membership meeting in July, the Methow Valley Spinners and Weavers presented a notebook about their project for 2011 - 2012 for Show and Share. At that time they were still mid-project and did not have any finished weavings to display. ANWG Rep Kay Reiber has submitted more information on the project and pictures of finished projects.

Summer and Winter Challenge, 2011-2012

The range of weaving experience in the Methow Valley Guild ranges from “rank beginner” to “extremely experienced” and includes everything in-between. As we had hoped, everyone found a way to expand her knowledge significantly. It was wonderful to witness each weaver pushing herself beyond her comfort zone while not in the least trying to impress anyone or make this challenge into a competition.

The challenge was to dig a little deeper into the Summer and Winter weave structure. We started with an introduction to Summer and Winter. Requirements were to keep a written record along with a finished project or samples ready for sharing.

Attendees at the ANWG meeting saw the notebook of these written records. Here are some photos of the finished projects.





ANWG MEMBERSHIP FORM – 2013
For guild membership only

Benefits of ANWG membership:

- Guild Grant and Conference Scholarship Program
- Conference fee discount
- Representation in ANWG meetings
- Free Guild web page on www.northwestweavers.org

Dues are \$1 US per guild's individual members payable on or before November 1, 2012. The membership number, to be used for this calculation, will be the total number of members of a guild as of the end of the previous membership year. Example: Guild membership as of June 30 = 20 X \$1.00 = \$20.00 for ANWG dues renewal.

Send this form, with check or money order (US), payable to ANWG to:

ANWG Membership Chair: Christine Bunnell,
P. O. Box 1024, Kettle Falls WA 99141 US

Guild Name _____ # members ____ \$ ____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ Prov/State ____ Postal/Zip Code _____

ANWG REPRESENTATIVE NAME _____

Address _____

City _____ Prov/State ____ Postal/Zip Code _____

Phone # _____ E-mail(crucial) _____

PRESIDENT'S NAME _____

Address _____

City _____ Prov/State ____ Postal/Zip Code _____

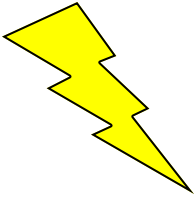
Phone # _____ E-mail (crucial) _____

NEWSLETTER EDITOR NAME _____

Phone # _____ E-mail (crucial) _____

ANWG WEB PAGE

ANWG member guilds have web pages or links to their own web pages from www.northwestweavers.org that can be very informative for those making inquiries. ANWG urges you to keep your page current. **Each Guild should also have a contact person with an e-mail address to be posted on the guild page, this generally being the ANWG Guild REPRESENTATIVE.**




As you renew your membership please update your webpage with the web mistress. Please contact the webmaster concerning webpage content. Information to accomplish this task can be found on the ANWG website (www.northwestweavers.org), which lists the web mistress's information.

IMPORTANT NOTICE, PLEASE READ:

ANWG emails most newsletters and yearly membership documents in PDF form (approximately 750kb size) to guilds, via the guild rep. These documents will also be posted as files on the YAHOO REP site, file section; and the ANWG website under member services. If this will create a hardship for your guild, please inform the newsletter editor: Barbara Taylor, ghosttrail@msn.com, 541-894-2473, 40049 Rhody Road, Baker City OR 97814 US.

Active participation by your guild through your ANWG Representative is of the utmost importance to this organization. Please communicate suggestions and comments directly to any ANWG Board member or directly to Mary Anna Swinnerton, President, luvmaps2@bendcable.com, 541-383-3588, 1026 N E Revere Ave, Bend OR 97701 US.

This information is for the use of ANWG and its member Guilds.

 The logo for the ANWG 2013 NW Weavers Conference. It features a central square with a colorful woven pattern. The words 'BORDERS' and 'CROSSING' are written vertically on the left and right sides of the square, respectively. Below the square, the words 'ANWG 2013' are written in green, and 'NW WEAVERS CONFERENCE' is written in blue.	ANWG 2013 Conference
	June 17 - 23, 2012
	Western Washington University
	Bellingham, WA
	See you there!