

❖ Northwest News ❖

Association of Northwest Weavers' Guilds

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

ANWG CONFERENCES "CROSSING BORDERS, CROSSING THREADS"

It all began in 1957, when Seattle Guild President, Virginia Harvey, encouraged her guild to invite weavers from WA, OR, ID, MT and BC to come to Seattle in March. Five hundred and fifty weavers, some crossing the border from Canada, came to attend workshops with experienced weavers, share ideas and experiences, and get to know one another. The Washington State weavers then organized the Washington Arts and Crafts Association.

In 1965 the Portland Handweavers Guild held the first conference of the loosely organized Pacific Northwest Weavers, using the theme "Jewels of Nature". Making a profit with that conference, the Portland Guild provided \$250.00 as seed money to each of the next five guilds who offered to host conferences in 1967, '69, '71, '73, and '75. Those conferences were held in Spokane, WA; Seattle, WA; Portland, OR; Vancouver, BC and Pullman, WA. These biennial conferences were continuing to introduce weavers in both the U.S. and Canada to each other and share the rich weaving knowledge and creativity in the Pacific Northwest. Subsequent conferences have also been held in Boise, ID; Prince George, BC; Eugene and Salem, OR; Red Deer, AB; Tacoma, WA; Bozeman, MT and Pendleton, OR.

By 1975 interest was growing and there was a need for more structure. In that year a proposal was sent out to 29 guilds that outlined the following structure: dues would be assessed at 25 cents/guild member, conferences would be held every two years (in the odd-numbered year) and rotated geographically, newsletters would be sent to each guild, a Board of Directors would be elected and board member expenses would be reimbursed. In 1978 these ideas were presented in the form of Bylaws and in 1979, the Association of Northwest Weavers' Guilds (ANWG) was incorporated in the State of Washington.

The ideas in that first proposal are still the basis for ANWG today, with the number of active guilds growing currently to 80. The idea of providing seed money, started by the Portland Guild, still continues today with the ANWG Board providing seed money to the guild, or group of guilds, that are willing to host a

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President's Message (Cont'd. from p. 1)

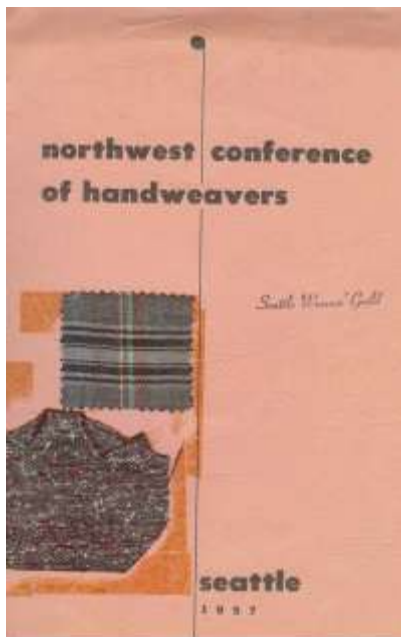
conference. Most host guilds find that there are profits at the end of the conference, and after the seed money is returned and 20% of the profits are given to ANWG (which helps to continue providing seed money, workshop and scholarship grants to guilds), there is money left for the work of their own guild(s).

We continue to cross borders and share the creativity of our threads through our conferences. The upcoming conference in Bellingham is being hosted by the Seattle Guild, with help from Whatcom, Whidbey Island, Greater Vancouver, Skagit and Seaview Guilds.

There will be several ways that the ANWG Board will help to celebrate our 25th Silver Anniversary Conference in Bellingham. Do stop by our table in the Guild Booth area and see how you fit into the picture.

Breakfast at the conference on Sunday morning, June 23, will also be the Annual Membership Meeting, and we hope you will join us for more celebration and getting better acquainted as we continue "Crossing Borders, Crossing Threads".

Woven together,
Mary Anna Swinnerton



**The First Conference
Seattle 1957**

HOSTING THE 2015 CONFERENCE

Has your Guild ever considered hosting an ANWG conference? It is not too early to be looking ahead to the next ANWG conference in 2015.

This year the Seattle Weavers Guild is hosting the conference. They are being helped by four other guilds: (Whatcom, Whidbey Island, Greater Vancouver, Skagit) who have taken on different responsibilities. The planning team, which includes members of the Seattle Weavers Guild and members of the other guilds, is being led by Rae Deane Leatham of the Seattle Weavers Guild. They are developing a procedure manual, including time lines and tools such as the registration program, that will be helpful for the planning of the next ANWG Conference. This manual --- template or recipe book -- will make planning the next ANWG Conference much easier.

Hosting and planning an ANWG Conference is a gift to all Northwest weavers and spinners, but it can often bring extra money to your guild. The ANWG Board provides start-up funds to the conference planning group, backs every planning team and covers any shortfalls. To our knowledge, there has never been a shortfall that ANWG has had to cover, but ANWG is, in essence, an insurance policy if needed.

Think about it and talk to your guild and/or other nearby guilds who might want to join in this special project. For more information, contact ANWG President, Mary Anna Swinnerton. E-mail - luvmaps2@bendcable.com or phone - 541-383-3588

The Next Conference

?????



Your City

WANTED: ANWG WEBMASTER

Linda Davis, who has been webmaster since 2005, with a two year "leave of absence" when she was ANWG President, will retire effective September 1, 2013. This means that we need to find a new webmaster. Please help us find someone who can take over this duty!

The website is extremely important to guilds and the fiber arts community. We receive between 250-350 visits daily. About one-third of visits are to the Classifieds section which continues to receive between 250-300 postings per year. The remainder of the visits are sprinkled throughout the site but information about particular guilds is an important function of the site.

The website, utilizing the WordPress platform, is easier and cheaper than it has ever been, and maintenance is easy. Maintenance can be done by more than one person. At this time, in addition to Linda, two others are involved in maintaining the site. Neither person had any experience prior to taking on this assistance. At most times, only a few minutes per day, or a few minutes per week, are required. Technical assistance is available if problems arise that cannot be addressed by the webmaster. No software purchase is required by those maintaining the site, and maintenance can be done from any computer anywhere in the world and from most mobile devices.

If you know someone who understands WordPress and would be interested and willing to take over the webmaster duties, please let Linda Davis or an ANWG board member know. Please announce this position to your guild members. This position is a good way for someone to learn about development and maintenance of websites generally. If someone is interested but has no experience or training, if they have the basic understanding of computer functions and the internet, they can learn quickly. It's fun, interesting, and a great way to keep in tune with what's going on in the fiber arts world!

Contact Linda at webweaver@bendbroadband.com

CONFERENCE UPDATE

These last few months have been an amazing journey for the 2013 ANWG conference committee. We have over 500 of you who have signed up online to attend. But there still are openings. About half of the workshops and seminars are still available but some may have only one or two openings remaining. Registration is now open to those who want to come for just the day to take one or two seminars. And if the classes don't interest you, but the camaraderie does, you can sign up for a Conference Lodging and Meal package for Thursday evening through Sunday morning. Details are on the 2013 website.

While the Fashion Show closed April 1, there is still time to enter the Juried Show (closes April 15) and the Open Show (closes April 22). Please get your goody bag donations in by April 20 and don't forget to submit items for your own guild's booth.

I am getting more and more excited about this conference. The events that the Whatcom guild are planning are really fun. And if you just want to come for the Keynote with Anita Luvera Mayer or the Fashion Show and Reception those tickets are now available for purchase. Our Marketplace is full of vendors, plus we have a number of demonstrations that will be interesting to watch at various times throughout the conference. And if you have been busy, the gallery will have many wonderful items to see.

Come celebrate our ANWG's 25th anniversary conference. Whether you are coming for the full week of workshops, seminars and events or just a day or for a single event, there will be much to put a smile on your face and spark your creativity. Check the website for more information. Come join us for Crossing Borders Crossing Threads, June 17-23 at Western Washington University.

Rae Deane Leatham
2013 ANWG Conference Chair.



OUT AND ABOUT IN THE GUILDS

Inspired by Japanese Textiles Portland Handweavers Guild

Portland Handweavers Guild has chosen the theme “Inspired by Japanese Textiles” for this year, which will culminate in the PHG booth at the ANWG 2013 Conference. In keeping with the conference theme “Crossing Borders, Crossing Threads”, the members felt that a subject as broad as Japanese textiles would give them many learning opportunities and lots of inspiration. Indigo, shibori, sakiori, kumihimo, hemp, kimonos, ikat and silk were just a few ideas for starters.

Japanese textiles have a very long history, and Japan is still a leader in the textile industry. Many people think of the subtlety and subdued colors of Japanese textiles, but many Japanese artists are creating modern, edgy textiles that completely break from the past. One goal of the guild is to have both traditional and totally modern textiles in their booth at Bellingham.

The guild has started study groups in indigo dyeing, ikat weaving, kumihimo/sashiko, sakiori, and plain and complex Japanese weaving. Anyone interested could join one of these groups or start other groups. Other suggestions, if you were working on your own, were to put restraints on your weaving, such as working only with hemp, ramie or silk for the year.

This booth should be an exciting treatment of the conference theme. Be sure to look for it at the 2013 Conference in Bellingham this June.



Chris Rossi's sakiori piece under construction using silk kimono strips, ramie warp, with silk, wool and other fibers.

WEAVING GUILDS OF OREGON 2013 TRAVELING EXHIBIT

Weaving Guilds of Oregon (WeGO) was formed as a state-wide organization in 1982 to share information, resources, and education; and to promote fiber art throughout the state. Every 3-5 years, WeGO sponsors a year-long traveling exhibit of fiber arts.

Today's fiber artists continue to pursue the ancient art of weaving: making wool yarn into rugs, silk and the new synthetic fibers into scarves and garments, cotton and recycled fibers and items into wall hangings and other items specially designed by the artists.

Weaving guilds throughout the state contact galleries in their locale to promote the exhibit so the public can be shown items we make today. The remaining venues during 2013 include North Bend, Jacksonville, Sisters, Klamath Falls, Eugene, The Dalles, Salem, and Astoria.

The 700 plus members of the sixteen Weaving Guilds of Oregon hope you will enjoy your visit to this great collection of fiber arts when it visits your area.

April 6 - 28, 2013: Pony Village Mall, North Bend, OR

May 2 - 28, 2013: Art Presence Art Center, Jacksonville, OR

June 2 - 30, 2013: Sisters Public Library, Sisters, OR

July 7 - 29, 2013: Klamath Art Association and Gallery, Klamath Falls, OR

August 2 - 30, 2013: Eugene Textile Center, Eugene, OR

September 5 - 29, 2013: The Dalles Art Center, The Dalles, OR

October 10 - December 26, 2013: Willamette Heritage Center (Mission Mill), Salem, OR

Note: Check ANWG website for links to venues for times.



In celebration of the 25th anniversary of the Association of Northwest Weaving Guilds (ANWG) conferences, the Board of Directors has authorized a special award for the 2013 Conference in Bellingham, WA. Along with other activities planned for this conference, the Board has given \$250.00 to the conference committee to provide a “Best of Show” award. Because ANWG is an association of guilds, the Guild Booth displays were selected as the appropriate place for this award. The award recognizes the contribution of the individual members to the overall functioning and success of the guild.

MEMBERSHIP REPORT, APRIL 1, 2013
Christine Bunnell
Membership Chair

Membership Summary, as of April 1, 2013

3544 Individual Members
80 Guilds
2 Guilds did not renew.

Total membership count from renewed guilds, U.S. = 2274
Total membership count from renewed guilds, CA = 1270
Total guilds renewed, U.S. = 49
Total guilds renewed, CAN = 31

In comparison, over a three year period, 2011-2013:

	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>
Individual member count	3621	3593	3544
Guild count	86	81	80

Conclusion: There was a 6% drop in guild membership between 2011 and 2012. There has been a 1% drop in guild membership between 2012 and 2013. There has been a 1% decrease in individual member headcount between each of the three years. Please see starred (*) notation below for further information pertaining to these changes.

All guilds in arrears for more than one year have not been included in this tally or analysis.

*There were two new guilds and one renewed guild (which had lapsed membership for one year); two associations who changed status from member guild to affiliated association; and two guilds that did not renew. This explains the change to our guild count and membership headcount.

Communications

All communications for the membership year 2012-2013 were channeled through the Yahoo site and the reps network. This was augmented with emails to individual reps and/or presidents. The communications entailed dues renewal reminders (four), information notices, troubleshooting on a guild by guild basis concerning Yahoo and the new ANWG website, coordinating with the conference registrar and guilds concerning membership status, and specific invitations to a variety of associations to join ANWG as affiliated associations. There were two affiliated associations garnered through the invitation process and one individual affiliated membership through the ANWG website.

New Membership Year Goals

I have four goals for Membership this year. Please note some of last year's goals are being carried over to 2014, since it is an ongoing process.

- To grow the guild numbers and/or grow the membership numbers.
- Transition all membership functions to the new ANWG website.
- Open up conversations with the guilds.
- Invite and get more activity from associations which could be affiliated with ANWG.

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(Cont'd. from p. 5)

Membership Committee

The Bylaws address the formation of a current Membership Committee. A new committee needs to be re-set. I would recommend a number of two plus the Membership Chair. During the next year (2013-2014) this committee will work on invitations to past guilds, new/non-member guilds and potential affiliated associations; making personal contacts with the guilds a must. The identification of new/non-member guilds and potential affiliated associations will be the greatest task and will need the help of the board and member guilds in ascertaining contact information.

Other Items

The membership renewal form no longer requires a membership roster to be submitted with your renewal form. All dues must be based upon the membership of the guild as of the end of the guild's most recent membership year. No more waiting for everyone to pay their dues in the Fall before submitting the ANWG guild renewal form.

The cumbersome process between the newsletter editor, treasurer, membership chair and webmaster is a thing of the past. Email listings and the membership roster are now available in two different file sections....Yahoo and on the ANWG website.

Stay tuned for updates on the distribution of information, forms and processes concerning membership on the new website, www.northwestweavers.org.

PAST CONFERENCES: EDUCATION, INSPIRATION, FRIENDSHIP



Portland sponsored the second conference in 1965. This is the first conference where seed money was given to the sponsor.



Raven's Tail was featured on cover of the 1969 conference Booklet (Seattle). It puts in an appearance again this year as both a workshop and seminar.



This Finn Weave item was woven by Spokane Guild members for the 1985 conference in Tacoma "Weavers: Sharing and Learning". It won Best in Show and People's Choice awards.



Hand Weavers, Spinners and Dyers of Alberta sponsored the 2007 conference at Red Deer, Alberta.