



ASSOCIATION OF NORTHWEST WEAVERS' GUILDS

## NORTHWEST NEWS

Volume 21, Issue 1

January 2018

Website: <https://northwestweavers.org>

### CONTENTS

President's Message

ANWG News

News from Member Guilds

Fiber Events



### President's Message

Happy New Year! Don't know where 2017 went, but it's gone and we're off and running into 2018. I hope all of you had a great holiday season and are ready to begin the new year with exciting and informative guild programs and events.

The ANWG website has undergone a complete transformation, so check it frequently to find fiber events in the region, rotating members gallery photos, conference information, grant guidelines and application, membership forms, and much more. <https://northwestweavers.org>

Being fascinated with old weaving drafts and the pioneers of our craft like Mary Meigs Atwater, I want to share with you some of her comments I ran across when reading some old Shuttle-Craft Bulletins - this from Bulletin No. 24, September, 1926. . .

*“This number of the Bulletin marks the end of the second year of our Guild. Our numbers are increasing and our work is broadening in scope, so that I for one look back over what we have accomplished with a good deal of pride and satisfaction. In the modern revival of our ancient national art, we as a group are playing a not inconsiderable part. Of course we are still at the beginning of this thing! The general public is still woefully uninformed on the subject - the great majority of people having no idea that “cloth” is ever “made by hand.” We are still pioneers.*

*The thing we are building up is not only a beautiful art but is also a nationwide industry in which large classes of people are finding, in increasing numbers, a profitable and delightful outlet for their talents and a new use for spare time. By working together along some simple plan, we can do a good deal without any cost except for a little time and trouble. With our membership in all parts of the country we can accomplish wonders if we will.”*

These comments struck me as being as true today as they were 92 years ago in 1926. We are still pioneers in this great field of fiber arts, and we can accomplish wonders if we will. Mary Meigs Atwater wove and wrote these Shuttle-Craft Bulletins from her home in Montana during the 20th century. The first organized weaving guild for lay persons in the US. I’m happy to announce that the Montana Association of Weavers and Spinners (MAWS) have agreed to host the 2023 ANWG Conference in their great state. We can all go back to the early North American roots of handweaving through Atwater’s publications and MAWS conferences. The Montana guilds rotate hosting their own conferences every two years, so join me in June, 2018 at Big Sky to experience their brand of western hospitality. <https://www.montanaweavespin.org/>

Read on to find a bulging newsletter full of study group ideas and guild reports. Encourage your guild to submit a Challenge Grant application to receive funds for guild workshops and events through 2019. Be sure to visit our new website often this year for the latest news and events. <https://northwestweavers.org>

Woven together, Linda Gettmann

# ANWG News

## New Logo plus Website and Newsletter Redo

Have you noticed a different look to this newsletter? Note the new logo—bright and clean with a great color palette (look down). Have you looked at the website recently? Our webmaster, Isabelle Fusey, has revamped the website, <https://northwestweavers.org>, with the new logo, a new look and enhanced navigation. Ila McCallum, Communications Chair and newsletter editor, developed this newsletter in a program designed especially for email newsletters, which will look good on your phone as well as your computer.

The board would like your feedback on the new formats and what you would like to see in your newsletter and website, including any problems you may have with the digital formats. You may send comments to any board member (email addresses at end of newsletter). Isabelle can be reached at [webmaster@northwestweavers.org](mailto:webmaster@northwestweavers.org) and Ila can be reached at [newsletter@northwestweavers.org](mailto:newsletter@northwestweavers.org).



## ANWG Membership

Membership in ANWG is open to fiber arts guilds, affiliate individuals and affiliated fiber-related associations in the entire ANWG region. The region consists of the North American northwest:

Canada: Alberta, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, Saskatchewan and Yukon

USA: Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Wyoming

Yes, this is a very large area geographically but also has a very wide range of fiber arts activities. This is not just weaving and spinning but includes basketry, knitting, crochet, rug hooking, felting, dyeing--all crafts and arts involving fiber. There are many wonderful guilds, exhibits, conferences, fiber fairs, and other fiber-related activities in our region together with many very talented artists.

We would like to welcome more groups to our association. If you know of a group that qualifies as a member, please let them know about ANWG. Information on membership is on our website and our Membership Chair, Liz Moncrief, can answer questions. Contact her at: [membership@northwestweavers.org](mailto:membership@northwestweavers.org).

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A reminder from Liz Moncrief, our Membership Chair: When dues are paid and your guild's membership form is completed, this information goes into a database for ANWG's use. If your guild changes officers at a different time of year than when ANWG dues are paid, please contact Liz with information on the President and ANWG Representative so that she can update the ANWG records. Contact: [membership@northwestweavers.org](mailto:membership@northwestweavers.org). Liz says thank you!

## **ANWG Website Features the Members Gallery**

Members, this is the first newsletter of the year and we want to start off with fun things to accompany our new website. One of those is a challenge to our member guilds to submit a recent activity that you've had featuring your members and their work. This can be a holiday event, a guild sale, workshop or study group perhaps? We love photos so please consider submitting a paragraph or three describing your event along with titles to your photos. Three or four photos would be ideal and we'll pick the best.

I'm hoping that we have many submissions to start the new year off, however if you're shy, you can expect an email or phone call from me to get things going. Please submit to me directly and use the term **Members Gallery** in your subject line, and I'll work with you via email if I have questions. Please be sure to have permission from people in the photos to be published.

This is your chance to let your guild shine and inspire others.

As a start, I'm featuring one of my own guilds, the Whatcom Weavers Guild out of Bellingham, WA and our conference in the fall of 2017.

Yours in Weaving. Liz Moncrief, Membership Chair

## **2018 ANWG Creative Challenge Grants**

ANWG is offering Challenge Grants to our member guilds in 2018. We are offering up to 25 US\$600 grants! Your guild has received information on these grants and it is also on our website at <https://northwestweavers.org/education/grant/>. This is a great opportunity for your guild to get financial assistance with a program, workshop, or other activity that it would like to sponsor.

If you have questions, please contact Linda Gettmann at [president@northwestweavers.org](mailto:president@northwestweavers.org).

## Program Chairs: A Question for You

This question is directed to guild program chairs. Would you like to have a list of other guild program chairs on the website for you to contact if you have questions? This is a form of networking that ANWG could facilitate through the website. Please send your comments to Linda Gettmann at [president@northwestweavers.org](mailto:president@northwestweavers.org).

## Study Groups: A Guild's Asset

Study groups can be a great asset to any guild. No matter what our goals, mission statement or reason for meeting are, education always plays a part in a guild; whether it's improving a current skill, or learning something new. Our guild, the Handweaver's Guild of Boise Valley, takes great pride in our study groups. We currently have 7 active groups, while even more are on a break. We have weaving, spinning, knitting, and rug hooking, just to name a few. In the past, we have also had basket weaving, tapestry, dyeing, and from-sheep-to-sweater.

Our approach is simple; if there is something you would like to learn about, why not make it into a study group? After all, if you are interested, there is a good chance that someone else is too. Keep in mind, that you don't have to be an expert on the topic you want to study, nor do you even have to know anything about the topic to lead a group. You just need the desire to learn and a few skills to make that happen.

Once you have decided on a topic to study, it could be very broad, or it can be very small. For instance, our day weaving group, for years, was just a group of weavers getting together once a month to get help and encouragement on whatever they happened to be working on at the time, However, this year, we as a group, decided to narrow our study and work through *The Weaver's Draft Book and Clothier's Assistant* by John Hardgrove published in 1792. Other weaving questions were answered after the Hardgrove discussions we completed for the month.

This can also work for spinners and knitters. Our spinning study group meets once a month, from September through May, to sit chat, and spin. We take a break in the summer and concentrate on demonstrating at the fair and have a day long dye day.

Each of our study groups has a contact person. This doesn't mean that this person teaches anything, nor is "in charge" of learning all that there is about a topic. Their role is to organize meeting places and times, and maybe find a teacher to come in and demonstrate for the study group. They also get the information back to the guild, so that any member interested can attend.

The next important thing to think about is, how you want the study to go? Do you want it to be more of a social event or would you rather have a more structured meeting time? Both ways make great study groups.

After that, you need to think about the length of meeting time. For us, our programs usually last around an hour, which works well for a demonstration or just to just scratch the surface of a topic. You really can't have a dye program and expect to come away with finished dyed items. That takes far more time, thus we have dye days, where we spend the day dyeing, usually more than one item. As for our day weaving study group, we meet once a month.

Another idea that we, as a guild, do, is hold a weaving intensive. Every year over the Martin Luther King Holiday weekend, we hold a 3-day, no teacher weaving workshop. We pick a topic, then each weaver chooses a draft within the topic and brings their pre-warped loom to the workshop. This year, the topic is circles. In the past, we have had Huck, twill, double weave, color and weave, just to name a few.

On the first day of the workshop, each weaver is given a notebook of all the drafts and any notes that are needed for the drafts. Each weaver discusses why they chose that draft and what they might have learned from it. After that, we weave samples on each loom, round-robin style. On the last day, when we cut the samples off the loom, we all look over our hard work and see how each draft turned out. By the end of the three days, we all come home with a sample note book and had a fun weekend of learning.

This format has also turned out to be a great way to "test" out looms. I know that I, for one, knew what loom I wanted to purchase after attending my first intensive. Before we all pack up our looms at the end, those who attended the intensive vote on the topic for next year, so that we can start to think of and make plans for next year's event. In my opinion, I will say that our weaving intensive is a highlight of our guild's year. Because this is a "teacherless" workshop, the cost is very low. For us, it's around \$25 to \$30 for the entire weekend. This makes it very easy for anyone who wants to attend, to do so.

Study groups are a highlight for our guild and we are usually game to join a new one. Sound like fun? Why not give a study group or two a try in your guild?

Melanie Smith

## **Bozeman Weavers Guild Study Group**

Three years ago our guild decided to revive the study group in response to a growth spurt in our membership. We are a growing community of weavers of many years and skill levels who were looking for a way to share knowledge with newer weavers as well as dust the cobwebs off our own

habits and methods. We were richly rewarded for our efforts. Who knew you could laugh so hard while you are talking about weaving and still get your problem solved.

Initially, we were unsure of how to proceed. The days of shared samples swatches and notebook were over for us and we as a group came up with a very loose structure. We pick a weave structure and use it as an umbrella to give us focus for the year. Over the years we have settled on a source material and gone from there as individuals. Our first year we used Leslie Voiers monograph about Log Cabin with excellent and satisfying results. Lace came next using a more diverse set of resource materials and this year twill with the guidance of The Handweaver's Pattern Directory by Anne Dixon. We share drafts and photographs digitally. The richest lessons, however, come from the hands on show and share.

We have become a surprisingly close and supportive group, for which we are most grateful. I would also venture that our weaving has improved and grown. I know mine has. I am positively influenced by the careful record keepers and have started to use a temple again, and I believe even my devil- may- care warping strategies have been emulated. The important thing is that we have our looms warped and smiles on our faces.

Mary Bartlo



## ANWG Conference 2019



## ANWG 2019 NW Weavers' Conference

June 11-16, 2019, Prince George, BC

<http://anwgconference2019.com/home.html>

We are gearing up on our planning and getting really excited about the wonderful instructors we have lined up. Our event will be compact but filled with lots of interesting topics and hopefully people will return home inspired about how the various textile crafts can meet and enhance each other.

We are still finalizing the facilities - late construction of the newest hotel means we have not been able to tour it or arrange to book the hotel yet, but they are promising soon. This will keep the event concentrated in a small geographic area, downtown where there are lots of great restaurants. We plan on collecting menus and having them available in the lobby of the convention centre to whet appetites!

The felting workshop will take place in the art gallery workshop space - a lovely room with lots of natural light. The rest of the workshops will happen at the Civic Centre or at the Coast Inn of the North. We will be block booking rooms at this hotel and the brand new Marriott Courtyard just half a block away, where we hope to have the exhibits as well.

The conference colours are based on the range of colours in the northern lights. If people want to start working on their conference submissions for guild booth or other displays, the following yarns/colours have been chosen from the Maurice Brassard (<http://www.mbrassard.com/coton2012.jpg>) website: Marine/navy 1425/5981; Magenta 5214; Fuschia 5169; Vert Pale 1831; Bleu Moyen 5029; Jaune Pale 1512.

We encourage everyone attending to weave something to wear, whether in the conference colours or not. Our weather in June can be variable - bring layers!

Laura Fry and Birthe Miller, Co-Chairs

## ANWG Conference 2021

# Save The Date

2021 ANWG Conference, Willamette University, Salem, OR

July 17-21, 2021



## ANWG Conference 2023

The Montana Association of Weavers and Spinners (MAWS) will be hosting the conference. Watch for more information as the time gets closer. Yes, it seems like a long time away but time has a way of sneaking past us.

# News from Member Guilds

## British Columbia: Ponderosa Spinners, Weavers & Fibre Artists Guild

Fall is the time of our Guild sale where we showcase our diverse talents in the fields of weaving, spinning, felting and dyeing. This year was no exception and we had a very successful sale.



We look forward to a busy winter and spring with classes planned for rigid heddle weaving, Nuno felting and wet felting.

Spinners have set aside the one day each month for SpinEd to learn techniques with the goal of improving spinning.

Felting happens once a week in our studio where anyone is welcome to come and participate and learn with our experienced felting members.

Our weaving explorations study group completed a colour gamp tea towel which proved to be a challenge for both beginner and experienced weavers as we sought to achieve the perfect balanced weave on our studio loom. Next up is a twill gamp tea towel which began with a drafting exercise to set up our draft.

Weaving Explorations meets the third Friday of each month from 9:30-noon at our studio in the Rotary Centre for the Arts, Kelowna. Contact person is Sandra Fearon [esfearon@shaw.ca](mailto:esfearon@shaw.ca)

Val Ward

## **British Columbia: Qualicum Weavers and Spinners Guild**

The fall of 2017 was a time of change for the Qualicum Weavers and Spinners Guild. After 25 years in one spot, the guild moved to a new space at the Qualicum Commons, a repurposed elementary school that now houses art and social programs. Our old home in the loft above the train station will be remembered fondly but the new larger space has rekindled energy and plans are underway for workshops, group projects, activity nights and movie screenings for 2018. As there are no longer steep narrow stairs to navigate and some of our members who had found them difficult have returned to the fold.

In November the guild held its annual show and sale, Elegant Threads. This year we entered into the 21st century and set up a credit card reader. Although there was fear and stress stepping into the unknown, this change along with the sale in general was deemed a success by both the guild and the happy purchasers.

Other fall activities included demonstrations and displays at the Lighthouse Fall Fair and for Active Ageing week, an event held by the town of Qualicum. The fair demonstration and display focused on denim clothing with two themes: Items that could be worn with denim clothing which included handwoven shawls, and scarves, knitted tops and even felted beads and items that could be made out of denim and tee shirts which included rugs and bags. Body movement is an integral part of both spinning and weaving so for active ageing week members demonstrated hand manipulated weaving, spinning with a wheel and with a drop spindle.

Our year ended with a guild potluck, a chance to socialize and a time not only to reflect on the changes of 2017 but a time to exchange ideas and to look forward to a new year in a new space.

Carol Hunter

## British Columbia: Selkirk Weavers and Spinners Guild



Pictures from Selkirk Weavers and Spinners Guild fall sale.

Kirsten Daggart



## British Columbia: Shuswap Spinners and Weavers

HAPPY 150TH BIRTHDAY, CANADA!

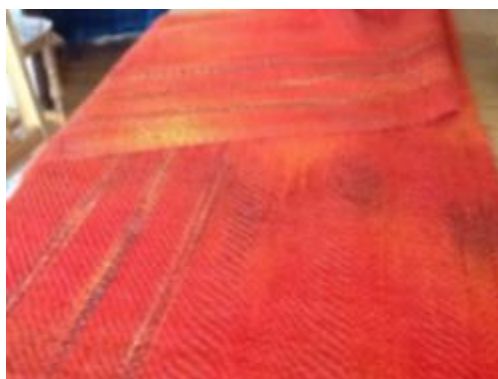
For those who haven't heard, we've been having a yearlong birthday party up here in Canada! What better way to honour and pay tribute, than with a beautiful shawl created during our sheep-to-shawl competition at our annual fair in Salmon Arm B.C. Our guild's team used Canada's birthday and a photo of a hardwood Canadian forest turning glorious colours in autumn to inspire the colour palette. A Border Leicester cross fleece for the warp and a CVM Merino cross fleece for the weft, were donated by our members who also are local sheep producers. The team was set to kick into creative gear! After careful washing to maintain the locks, the warp was spun in worsted fashion.

Dyeing the warp was the next step. The warp yarn, to be used as stripes, was originally painted as a practice yarn to see if the colours would actually work. Since it varied a bit from the final warp painting, we chose to use it to add the visual interest in the basket weave stripes. We loved the beautiful colour and couldn't resist. It was decided to do all the weft locks in one rich colour, which would blend harmoniously with several different colours in the warp. Two different practice pieces were made using different weaving techniques before the design and weave structure were decided and finalized.

The final threading used the painted skeins as basket weave stripes between the larger painted twill stripes. The basket weave stripes created images, which represented not only the trunks of our beloved Canadian trees, but also the many cultures which make up Canada's diversity today. To add visual interest, an undulating twill based on Marguerite Davison's threading "Twill from Finland," created images representing the edge of leaves. The weft was prepared using English wool combs and spun in a worsted fashion. After wet finishing, the shawl developed a beautiful soft finish and handle.

We're thrilled with our Canadian birthday shawl and the icing on the birthday cake was . . . we won first prize! Happy birthday, Canada!

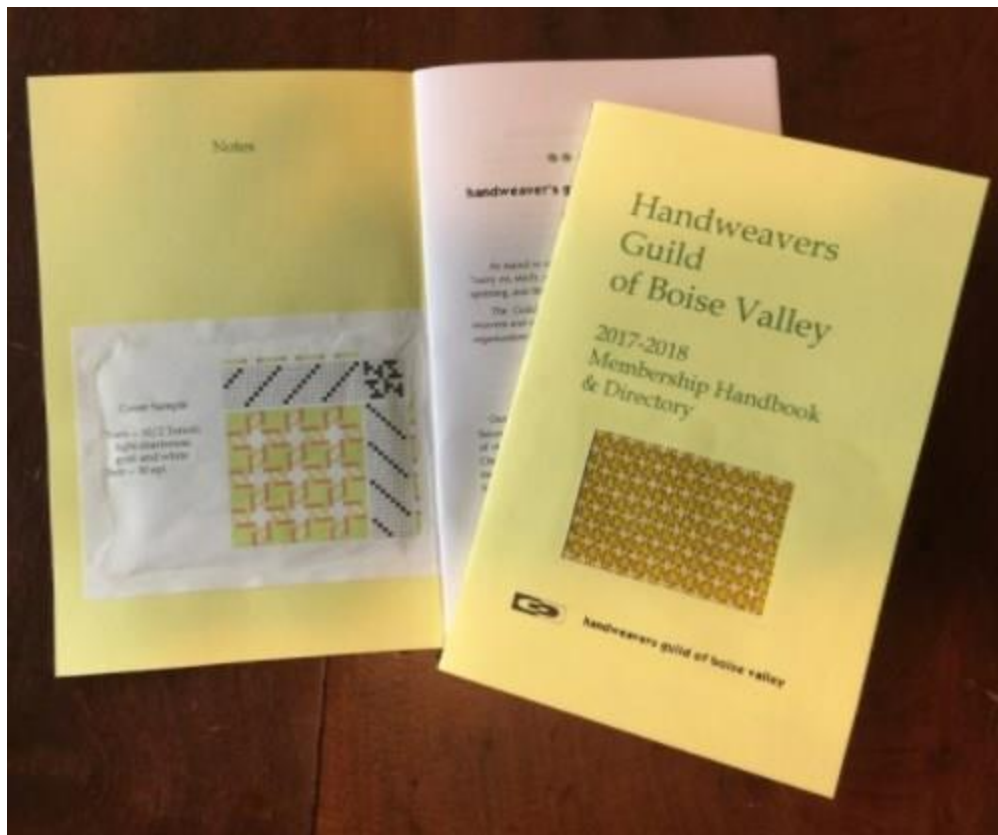
Judith Glibbery, ANWG Rep. Shuswap Spinners and Weavers, Salmon Arm B.C. Canada



## Idaho: Handweaver's Guild of Boise Valley

The Handweaver's Guild of Boise Valley has published a Membership Directory for many years. It contains a listing of the members and important information about navigating guild membership. This year we decided to do something a little differently with our directories. We added an actual handwoven sample into the front cover. The draft and weaving information for the fabric was also printed on the inside of the cover. The idea for this came from membership handbooks found among historical papers from a weaver's estate. These old handbooks are from the Eugene Weavers Guild printed in the 1970's. We are planning to repeat this design in our directory for next year.

Rebecca Winter, Membership Officer



## Montana: Bozeman Weavers Guild

The Bozeman Weavers Guild has had a busy Fall. Excellent leadership and eager, generous members have created an active guild life that includes conference preparation, a successful Fall guild sale, outstanding monthly guild programs and an inspiring study group. What fun!

Preparations to host the MAWS Conference in June 2018 in Big Sky, MT have taken time and talent, and the committee has astonished us all with a marvelous selection of classes and instructors. It is truly a national level conference delivered to our door. Check the website for details and register early for the best selection. [www.bozemanweaversguild.org](http://www.bozemanweaversguild.org)

The study group has taken on twill weaves this year. The group continues to meet every other Tuesday for problem solving, show and tell and friendship. It is open to weavers of any ability and casually organized around a basic weave structure. We explore and kibitz about all things twill.

This year we made a joint decision to put our programs before the business meeting and we all have judged the change to be a great success. The quality of the programs has been wonderful, packed with information about techniques, tips and analysis. We have covered fiber identification, sewing with handwovens and twill gamps. We still get our business done, but only so we can get to the show and tell portion which is hands down everyone's favorite.

The Bozeman Weavers Guild wishes all a Happy New Year and encourages you to join us in June for our conference.

Mary Bartlo



Above: Tam Miller twill gamps.  
Right: Carol Roehm sewing with textiles.



## Oregon: Rogue Valley Handweavers Guild

Autumn started with September's show and share "What I wove this Summer" with many beautiful woven items. So much inspiration!

October gave us an opportunity to share weaving with children and adults at the Talent Harvest Festival. Our booth included a small 4-shaft loom which draws many children and adults to try

their hand at weaving, small looms to make woven bracelets and kumihimo looms. There were approximately 100 kumihimo looms given out after "weavers" received instruction. Getting to see the excitement in the children learning a new skill makes the Festival particularly enjoyable. Demonstrations of spinning and bobbin lace kept the booth very busy! Some pictures of the event:



The October meeting program was a report on ANWG's conference and Robyn Spady's class "Pictures, Piles, Potpourri, and Perplexing Curiosities". We are already looking forward to having Robyn come to southern Oregon next year!.

Our Guild now has a new Facebook Group, where we can share with each other upcoming events, as well as challenges and successes.

November's program on "Stripes" and a DVD report on warping continued our education. Finishing off the year with our December potluck and gift exchange gave us an opportunity to enjoy each other's company and talents. Now looking forward to 2018!

Kamie Liston

## Oregon: Salem Fiberarts Guild

The Salem Fiberarts Guild enjoys a special relationship with the Willamette Heritage Center in Salem, Oregon. The guild meets at the Textile Learning Center in the Mill Building at Willamette Heritage Center but the connection goes much farther than just a meeting place.

The guild is very active in many of the events put on by the Willamette Heritage Center such as Sheep to Shawl where the guild demonstrates various fiber activities and Magic at the Mill, the Christmas tradition at the Center. Guild members volunteer for various helper positions and provide some of the children's activities teaching kids to weave on several warped looms. The guild also designates the proceeds of its October sale, held in the Dye House on the grounds, to the Willamette Heritage Center to assist the Center in its many programs. Guild members support the Willamette Heritage Center in other ways such as being on the board and supporting fundraising efforts. The guild also assists with running the Textile Learning Center which houses numerous looms which are available for people to use to weave their own projects, assists with weaving classes, and creates a friendly, sharing, learning atmosphere greeting many guests during the year.

Items made by our members are now on display and for sale in the reception area of the Willamette Heritage Center. You will find dishtowels, tote bags, rugs, scarves and more. All proceeds benefit the WHC.

The Willamette Heritage Center is housed at the former Thomas Kay Woolen Mills and many of the original machines and the mill stream remain, as well as historical buildings that have been moved to the site. Thomas Kay's daughter, Fannie, and her husband moved to Pendleton, Oregon, where they started the Pendleton Woolen Mills. More on the Willamette Heritage Center and its interesting history can be found at <https://www.willametteheritage.org>.

Ila McCallum



## Oregon: Saturday Handweavers Guild

### Gift the Guild

Several years ago Saturday Handweavers Guild in Medford, OR changed its holiday celebration from a gift exchange to a 'Gift the Guild' celebration. During our holiday luncheon members get to peruse and bid on items in a silent auction from items members have donated. There are weaving tools and equipment, handwoven goods, weaving books, yarn, roving, cookies, wine and even a spinning wheel this year. This year the items filled tables spanning two sides of the big room we meet in. The majority of the proceeds go toward scholarships for the coming year. This past year four \$100 scholarships were awarded to promote education for both the recipient and the guild as part of the scholarship is to come back and present a program to all guild members. We also often use part of the Gift the Guild money to add books to our guild library. This has turned out to be a much more fulfilling activity than just exchanging gifts - and its very fun!

Cindie Kitchin



## Oregon: Threadbenders

On Friday morning, eight of us left Baker City and La Grande for our scenic drive to Maupin on the Deschutes River, and arrived at the River Run Lodge mid afternoon. The weather was cool and windy, with sunny-bright glimpses of golden fields contrasting with slate blue clouds. That evening, after exploring the town, we dined together at the Imperial River Company, featuring beef and lamb from the Imperial Stock Ranch. Scrumptious!

Saturday morning was wet and blustery as we drove through pelting rain the 17 miles out Bakeoven Road. Jeanne Carver, who with her husband Dan, owns the Ranch, met us at the top of a hill. From this point, we could see the no-till croplands and native bunch grass range land that have sustained the cattle and sheep of this ranch for 146 years. Jeanne then graciously invited us

into their home, where we met Dan, and warmed ourselves by the wood stove with hot coffee and baked goodies.



Jeanne began the tale of the Imperial Stock Ranch ... the story of Richard Hinton's vision in 1871 when he homesteaded the original ranch and lived in a dugout ... the ranch that became the only ranch in Oregon recognized as a National Historic District that is still in operation, and still utilizes many of the original structures built in the late 1800's and early 1900's ... Jeanne shared the stories of the amazing women and men who developed this ranch that became the largest producer of sheep and wool in Wasco County. Hinton's improvement of his flocks led to the creation of the Columbia Sheep, an entirely new breed ideally suited to the high desert. Eventually the ranch became the largest individual owner of land and stock in Oregon.

We toured the old house and the shearing sheds, still standing, as Jeanne continued her story ... In recent decades, while battling the downturn of the wool market, the Ranch's development of fine wool products made its mark in the fashion industry, using Portland designer Anna Cohen. Sheepskins, once discarded, were tanned and painted as fine art sold in high-end galleries or restyled as elegant garments. Designer Ralph Lauren asked the Ranch to provide the yarn for Team USA's uniforms for the 2014 Winter Olympics. And this year, the Ranch became the first U.S. Farm certified to the Responsible Wool Standard. Jeanne also emphasized that the talent and support of local textile artists - just like us - had been critical to their success.

We are so fortunate to have had this very special opportunity.

Kirsten Badger

NOTE: Pictures courtesy of Imperial Stock Ranch. Pictures above: young Columbia ewe and late summer pasture. Below: Jeanne Carver and Sadie



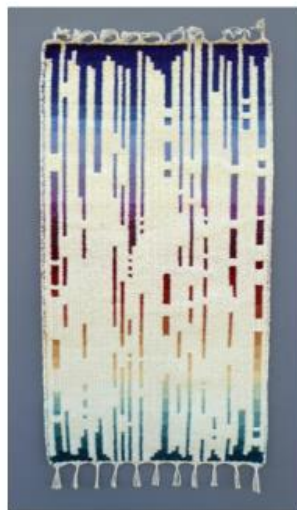
## Oregon: Umpqua Weavers and Spinners Guild

Four UWSG members, Kathy Staley, Clare Matthews, Corienne Geddes, and Kim Carter, participated in **COLOR GONE WILD** competition. Of the 66 items accepted for the WeGO Traveling Show, 8 were from UWSG, three each from Clare and Corienne, and one each from Kathy and Kim.

Clare wrote: "The three pieces I entered for the WeGO Color Gone Wild traveling exhibition were all an exploration, not only of color but technique and pattern. "Working with a 4-end block draft, the pattern was created using a newly acquired technique of shaft switching, developed and pioneered by Peter and Jason Collingwood. Once the designs were created and plotted, the colored yarns jumped from my stash, grouped themselves and poured into my work. It was an adventure full of challenges and 'aha' moments."



Vice Versa



Ebb and Flow



Journey

From Kathy is an explanation of the inspiration of her scarf. "My home is in the southern Umpqua Valley near the Rogue Valley. Surrounded by the Umpqua National Forest, I have plenty of hiking trails nearby - add two large dogs into the mix, and we are often exploring outside. When I am weaving from my yurt, I can see, hear, and smell the 'wild' side. My notebook includes patterns from local wildlife, which I love to include in my weavings.

"The title of my scarf is 'Harpaphe Haydeniana.' I find this millipede on the wild side of my property in my favorite area to hike. He lives amid the leaf litter and moss, doing a wonderful job of building the forest soil. His intense coloring warns predators to leave him be. Not only does he taste terrible, but he exudes hydrogen cyanide that burns skin . . . and smells of almonds. I heed his warnings and admire him from afar as he sits upon the moss.



*Harpaphe Haydeniana*



Kim sent a picture of her offering for the WeGO Traveling Show. She wrote: "It was created with fiber that I raised from the animals (Shetland sheep, Pygora goat, Angora rabbit) on my farm, CamasValley Fiber Farm. Some of the fiber was from examples of my first time spinning or from my first attempts at dying. The top stick I found at Whiskey Run Beech, the bottom from LaPine. I titled this piece 'A Gift from My Farm' because this is a gift from my parents back in Colorado."



Corienne's Peacock Feather Shawl was awarded **Best Use of Color and Design** in the WeGO collection of pieces sent in Color Gone Wild competition. She wrote of that piece: "Once upon a time a peacock wandered onto our farm and decided to stay. We named him Larry (Larry Byrd). Larry hung out with the wild turkeys and in the spring would join the toms in their mating dance sessions. He out-shown them all, no matter how hard they tried. Larry hung around for a few years, then moved on in search of a true love. Before he left he molted and left tail feathers all over my garden. I still have some of them and this shawl makes me remember Larry."

Of the other pieces, Corienne wrote: "Moroccan Pottery Bag -- A guild challenge featuring Morocco led me to a study of their traditions in arts and crafts. All the blues in their pottery and tile work resulted in this bag in many shades of blue and white."

"Technicolor Dream Coat -- This coat was woven using a hand painted warp of 5/2 cotton and rayon and a black perle cotton weft. The front and sleeve trim are hand painted lamb skin which was painted then shiboried in a black dye bath. Finished, it made me think of Joseph and the Technicolor Dream Coat."

Maureen Haugen



*Peacock Feather Shawl*



*Technicolor Dreamcoat*



*Moroccan Pottery*

## Washington: San Juan County Textile Guild

Merry Ferry Party - Because our members live on five different islands-plus the mainland or what we like to call - America, we have to be a little creative when it comes to meetings and parties. This year we held our holiday party on the interisland ferry - a party which moves from island to island—San Juan, Orcas, Shaw, Lopez and back to San Juan Island (left picture below).

We had the usual cookie and gift exchanges, although we did not have time for our usual gift swiping game. Those tend to be long and people will be getting on and off as the ferry moves from island to island. Leftover refreshments are donated to the crew.

Silk Painting Workshop - Our last workshop of the year was held in early November and taught by a local celebrity silk painter - Mary Sly. It was well received and rumors are that it may be repeated (upper right picture below).

Our guild has four study groups: (1) Weaving Study Group - meeting occasionally last year; novelty yarn scarf; this year: rep weaver (bottom right picture below), (2) Knitting - meeting weekly at Senior Center, (3) Beading- meeting once a month at member's home (4) spinning meeting once a month at SJI Library. WE also have monthly meetings on each individual island--San Juan, Lopez, and Orcas. Also, we have a monthly gathering to work on anything of our choosing at the Shaw Island Community Center.

Anita Barreca



## Washington: Seattle Weavers' Guild

### Seattle's Weaving Program at a Local Senior Center

Several years ago, Linda Stryker, then the Outreach Coordinator of the Seattle Weavers' Guild, received a call from the director of the Southeast Seattle Senior Center. The Center had a roomful of unused looms and wanted to either sell the looms or re-start a weaving program. When Linda and some volunteers from the guild went to the Center to see what was available, they were thrilled. Linda said, "I was absolutely stunned at the volume of equipment and supplies just sitting there—I felt like a kid in the candy store."

Volunteers began to inventory looms, shuttles, yarns and other items in the space—Allyn floor looms, Bergman table looms, and looms with notes saying they were donated by local citizens. Anita Mayer's mother-in-law must have been involved with the earlier program because her name was on several of the shuttles. Guild volunteers began teaching classes on Tuesday mornings. As more direct tie-up looms were donated, some counter-marche looms were sold. The program now has over twenty 4-harness looms, two 8-H table looms, and one 12-H floor loom.

Linda reports that the original yarns were vast and varied—some from companies no longer in business. "We have really enjoyed offering free materials to our students—granted not always the most popular color, but varied enough to get started on their projects." Nowadays, they get donations from guild members, weavers' estate sales, and the Senior Center thrift store, which gives them first pick of yarn donations. Whatever the weaving program can't use is donated to other craft programs at the Center and to other guild outreach activities.

The core instructors have been Linda Stryker teaching 4-H and inkle weaving for over 8 years and Carole Stewart teaching tapestry and rigid heddle weaving for over 4 years. Sue Willingham commuted from Vashon Island for several months to teach beginning weaving. Other guild members have done workshops on warping back to front, dyeing, tablet weaving, finishing techniques, rug weaving, jewelry making, and other topics. Over the last 8 years more than 60 people have learned to weave, and several have joined the Seattle Weavers' Guild.

Not all the students are senior citizens, and some have required adaptive techniques for them to weave successfully. A stroke patient only had use of one hand. Linda said, "We put her on a small Structo loom and she made scarves for her family members." They also assisted Boy Scouts in completing their Textile Merit Badge and taught homeschoolers to weave. Linda enjoys working with the scouts and school groups. "It is important to interest the younger generation in the origins of cloth and the experiences of accomplishment, pride, and relaxation of making something by hand."

When new weavers “graduate” from their second warp samplers, they are excited to sign up for communal warps—looms with long warps where they can weave a project in a different structure. The studio is available for this general weaving on weekdays from 9:00 to 4:30 and participants enjoy the company and support of this communal weaving.

One of the largest warps done by the group was a 15-yard white herringbone twill. A Gaelic group in Seattle used it for a public “wool waulking” at their annual Gaelic camp at Fort Worden and returned the fabric to the Center “completely fulled and lovely” as Linda remarked.

The weaving studio has a small lending library with books and *Handwoven* magazines. For reference use, there are binders of class notes and samples and product binders from several yarn companies. The studio has also become a source for connecting free or for-sale looms to new weavers.

In December, 2017, the weavers were invited to display their weaving in the great hall of the Senior Center. The work takes up the largest wall of the hall. Each weaver’s work is labelled, and students are very proud of the exhibit. In 2018, Linda hopes to have students enter their work in the Washington State Fair.

Molly Gerhard



## Washington: Whatcom Weavers Guild

The Whatcom Weavers Guild, in conjunction with the Jansen Art Center in Lynden, organized a week of fiber workshops, a keynote talk, and a guild sale this past October.

Dr. Susan Pavel, a noted Coast Salish weaver, led two of the workshops and gave the keynote address, “My Job as a Weaver.” In her words, that is to:

*Weave things together. Weave the past into the present for the future. Weave yarns together to wrap people in love. Weave thoughts together to inspire people to their highest self. Weave people together to lift the collective consciousness of humanity.*

A total of nine different workshops were offered, and covered a wide range, including felting, warp painting, dyeing, rigid heddle weaving, Salish weaving, and color studies for fiber artists. Attendees came from the local area, as well as from eastern Washington, the Olympic peninsula, and lower BC.

The guild sale showcased the diversity and talents of guild members and nearly sold out. During the sale, guild members demonstrated spinning and weaving to our visitors, and otherwise helped them understand the art and craftsmanship on display.

The art center also featured an exhibit of woven, felted, quilted and embroidered pieces during the months of September through November.

Liz Moncrief



# Fiber Events

**Montana Association of Weavers and Spinners Conference June 13-17, 2018**



**"The Sky's The Limit"** The Montana Association of Weavers and Spinners (MAWS) will hold its biennial conference at Big Sky, MT, June 12-17, 2018. The Bozeman WeaversGuild (BWG), the host for the 2018 conference, is happy to be able to welcome participants to find inspiration in our beautiful corner of southwest Montana.

The conference colors for MAWS 2018 are inspired by our beautiful Montana Sky - blue, silver, golden yellow and coral.

Headlining instructors include Jason Collingwood, Jane Patrick and Linda Hartshorn. These artists will lead workshops on weaving and dyeing while regional instructors will share expertise on these and other fiber arts disciplines including spinning, felting, knitting and basketry. Participants can choose to hone existing skills and/or try something brand new. Class descriptions are posted on the website and registration will open in mid-January, 2018.

In addition to a wonderful selection of classes, there will be a variety of events including:

**"Reach for the Stars: Fiber Artistry in the Big Sky"** - The 2018 MAWS Open show will be hosted by the Helena Weavers and Spinners Guild. Display your artistry and enter fiber and/or 'square peg' creations made since the last MAWS conference. Information on categories and the guidelines for the open show are available on the website.

**“True Colors of the Big Sky” Fashion Show** - The Billings Weavers and Spinners will be hosting the open show and the 2018 show will be category and competition free. To help the show flow and to be well organized, the Billings Weavers Guild would like entries to be submitted by June 5th. Details and the entry form are available on the website.

**Conference Exchange Items** - Everyone is invited to participate in The Sky's the Limit! conference exchange. Bring a handwoven tea towel or a handspun skein for the exchange! Your towels and skeins will be displayed until, at the end of the conference, some lucky attendee will take home your 'gift' and you will receive a towel or skein in exchange.

The BWG invites everyone to make plans to come weave, spin, dye, felt and knit with us under the Big Sky! Additional and updated information on the 2018 MAWS conference, classes and events is available on the BWG website: [www.bozemanweaversguild.org/maws-2018](http://www.bozemanweaversguild.org/maws-2018)

### **Convergence July 6-12, 2018**

The Handweavers Guild of America, Inc. will present Convergence®, our international fiber arts conference, in Reno, Nevada July 6-12, 2018 at the Peppermill Resort. Additional information can be found at <http://www.weavespindye.oreg/convergence-2018>.



### **Complex Weavers 2018 Seminars July 10-13, 2018**

Complex Weavers is holding its 2018 Seminars in conjunction with Convergence at the Peppermill Resort, Reno, Nevada. There are fabulous speakers, fashion show, the CW silent auction, marketplace, and, of course, Seminars -- 29 two-hour seminar sessions from which to choose, with

topics covering a wide range of interests and appealing to all skill levels. Learn more at <https://www.complex-weavers.org/seminars-2018/>.

## Other Events of Interest

Please check our website <https://northwestweavers.org/events> for guild-sponsored events, other events and calls to artists.

## ANWG REGION

### Canada

Alberta, British Columbia, Northwest Territories, Saskatchewan, Yukon

### USA

Alaska, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, Wyoming

Membership open to all fiber arts guilds, affiliate individuals and fiber-related associations.

## CONFERENCES

June 11-16, 2019 -- Location: Prince George, BC. Sponsor: Prince George Fibre Arts Guild

June 17-21, 2021 -- Location: Salem, OR. Sponsor: Weaving Guilds of Oregon

2023 -- Location: Montana. Sponsor: Montana Association of Weavers and Spinners

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Association of Northwest Weavers' Guilds

ANWG Newsletter

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