

## Note from the President

The Pacific Northwest is really a wonderful place to live. We have so much going on, Fiber Festivals, guild meetings with lots of interest groups, places to gather and spin, weave, felt, or knit and crochet in public. These gatherings encourage people to participate and join our groups to learn new things or share their knowledge. Please get involved with these gatherings this spring. You will learn something new and encourage new people to learn new things as well. The plans for the conference in 2027 is well on its way. I am very excited to have this in the Portland area. Our volunteers are very busy planning an exciting experience for those of you that will attend. Please sign up to get emails with updates on the progress of this conference. Keep in mind that outreach is a very important part of what we do.

Happy Spring everyone,  
Patty Huffer, ANWG President

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## Note from the Editor

Life has a way of interfering with well laid plans. At least, that is my excuse for the tardiness of this newsletter. Thank you all for sending in your news. I am always excited and inspired to read what other guilds are doing.  
Nancy Skakel, editor

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## ANWG CHALLENGE GRANT 2026-2027

To all guild reps and others: The submittal date for the Challenge Grant is April 15 and while I won't be up at midnight waiting with baited breath, you still have time. I'm finding that some applications are going to the '[education@northwestweavers.org](mailto:education@northwestweavers.org)' and my own direct as '[L.moncrief@me.com](mailto:L.moncrief@me.com)' BUT I'm not getting them directly. I'm hoping that you're using both but just in case PLEASE send me a quickie email at\* [L.moncrief@me.com](mailto:L.moncrief@me.com) <[L.moncrief@me.com](mailto:L.moncrief@me.com)>\* to tell me that you've submitted so that I can compare to what I have in my Grant files so far. OR \*text or call me at 970-692-3949\* to verify. I don't want to leave anyone out.

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## 2027 Conference Update



Planning for the 2027 conference proceeds, and we're pleased to announce that we've selected a conference logo and conference colors. You can find the colors and descriptions along with a list of fiber sources and preferred colors on the conference website at <https://anwgconference.org/conference-colors/>.

Contracts are out for instructors, and we expect to announce the lineup of instructors and sessions soon. We're really excited about the offerings, and we think you will be too.

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### Note from the Webmaster

#### Scam Alert!

We wanted to alert everyone to a scam making the rounds. Someone claiming to have a loom that their late husband used is willing to give the loom away for free to someone who will use it and care for it like her husband did. They claim the loom is an 8 shaft Schacht, 52 inch wide, solid cherrywood, with 10 treadles. It's a nice loom but it's not local and will need to be shipped.

If you're thinking there is no such loom, you're correct. This is a scam. Remember, if it sounds too good to be true there's probably something wrong. In this case they wanted to use a specific shipper, but that shipper isn't real, and neither is the loom. Details are on the Better Business Bureau website: <https://www.bbb.org/scamtracker/lookupscam/1199948?returnTo=%2Fscamtracker%2Flookupscam%3Fq%3Dall%253D%2522package%2Bdelivery%2522%2526from%253D30>





In Collaboration with



**Meeting:**  
*When: Saturday, April 4th*  
*Time: 10:00-12:00 a.m.*  
*Location: Dry Canyon Club*  
*1865 NW Hemlock Ave.*  
*Redmond, OR*

*Our mission is to bring together fiber artists of all kinds, abilities and ages. Bring your current work and a desire to hang out with other fiber artists, just for the fun of it!!*

\*Minors must be accompanied by an adult

Questions please contact:  
 Lorrie Harnden  
 541-233-0875  
 Cofiberartassociation@gmail.com



## FIBER MARKET DAY

**Saturday, April 25<sup>th</sup> 2026**  
**9:00 am-4:00 pm**  
**Deschutes County Fairgrounds**  
**Coastal Pavilion**  
**Redmond, Oregon**



**FREE EVENT**

<b>Raw Natural Fibers</b> <b>Live Fiber Animals</b> <b>Spinning, Weaving &amp; Felting Supplies</b> <b>Spinning Circle</b>	<b>Vendor Marketplace</b> <b>Natural Yarns</b> <b>Hand Dyed Yarns</b> <b>Finished Fiber Products</b> <b>Regional Fiber Mills</b>
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HighDesertWoolGrowers1234  
**More Information at:**  
[Highdesertwoolgrowers.com](http://Highdesertwoolgrowers.com)



Hi Everyone,

I want to thank those of you who have already signed up for a booth at this year's 28th Annual Fiber Market Day. More information and details will follow shortly.

For those of you who would still like to sign up for our event, please complete the vendor booth application on our web site; [Highdesertwoolgrowers.com](http://Highdesertwoolgrowers.com). The application is under Vendor Information, remember to order a table or two if needed. We will be closing our applications on March 31st.

If you have any questions, please email us.  
 Thank you,  
 Lesley Hanson, High Desert Woolgrowers

## Coquitlam Weavers and Spinners

The Coquitlam Guild of Weavers and Spinners now have a new name: they are no longer the Coquitlam Weavers and Spinners Guild but instead, they are now the Coquitlam Guild of Weavers and Spinners. This name change was required because of a change in banks. The Coquitlam Guild continues to meet at Place des Arts in Coquitlam. <https://placedesarts.ca/> There is a weaving and spinning studio there with classes most of the year as well as access to Zoom and a large TV in the meeting room. We have members who join in the meetings by Zoom.

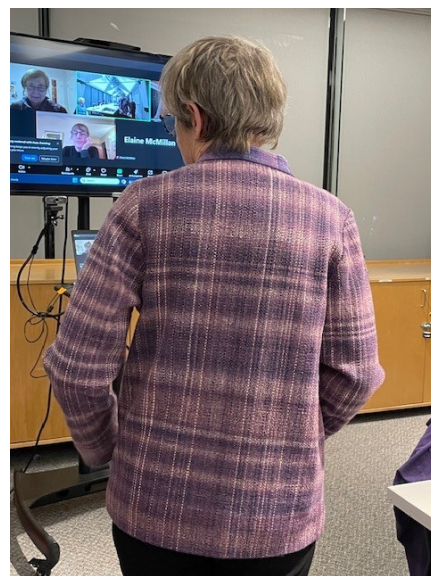
The Coquitlam Guild focuses on a yearly theme. This year the theme works around a bingo game. All the members received a bingo card like the traditional bingo card but instead of numbers, each square on the card has a fibre task. When a member completes the task and brings it to show and tell, they get to dab the square with a real bingo dabber! Each month one of the members volunteers to demonstrate and talk about one of the tasks on the bingo card. So far we have had people demonstrating needle felting, the use of a blending board and turning a weaving draft.

The Guild continues to circulate two small warped looms for members to weave a project.

Annually the Guild has a dye day in one member's back yard. This year the Guild focused on ice dyeing and immersion dyeing.



rep weave woven on the round robin loom by Sheila Bush



handspun, handwoven jacket (Daryl Lancaster pattern) by Janice Griffiths

- Janice Griffiths

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## **Columbia Fibres Guild**

Our mid-Columbia Gorge guild continues to grow with 90 members now. This includes 5 new members who joined during our demonstration at the local Blossom Festival at the Hood River Fairgrounds.

Members have been stepping up to share their skills for our monthly meeting program. Rachael Foss showed us her entralac knitting then helped us learn to do it ourselves. Julian MacIntosh talked about nuno felting and will provide a workshop later. Lou Palermo, director of the Columbia Gorge Museum, gave us an overview of lace making, including an interesting history lesson and a lesson on making lace. The museum is sponsoring a lace making project with Maggie Hensel-Brown from Australia <https://www.columbiagorgemuseum.org/lace-project> . Hensel-Brown made Supreme Court Justice Ruth Bader-Ginsberg's lace "dissent" collar.

This month we had an unusual and interesting field trip excursion to Portland for a tour of Oregon Natural Fiber Mill, a springless mattress manufacturer using cotton and wool fibers in their production.

Nancy Skakel, ANWG rep

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## **Comox Valley Woolgatherers**

The Woolgatherers have had a busy fall and winter.

In October, November, February, March and April we have held "Learning Mondays" with talks or lessons given by guild members. In October Shelley Combs taught us about making art cards which included fabric and yarn scraps. In November Karin Valeri had been learning to do Sashiko Embroidery, and shared what she had learned. In February Sheila Carey talked about her experience weaving placemats over thirty years, and having an article about it published in the new WEFT magazine. In March Karla Sandwith led us in exploring all of the equipment that the guild owns – many of us learned about items available that we had long forgotten. We discussed the use (or non-use) of our 100-inch loom and decided to encourage its use. And in April Linda Johnson talked about Yarn Types and Mystery Yarn Identification. We shared experiences on mixing different types of yarn and substituting yarns in our projects.

Beside the learning days, in November we were invited to a potluck lunch put on by the neighbouring Campbell River Midnight Shuttles Guild. 14 of our guild and 10 of theirs attended. We got to make new friends and there was lots of “show and tell” from both guilds.

At the end of November several of our members took part in a Christmas Sale put on by the owners of the hall where we meet.

February 14<sup>th</sup> and 15<sup>th</sup> we demonstrated weaving, spinning, knitting, and felting for Heritage Week at the Filberg Park.

Some examples of members' work:

Karin Valeri's Sashiko samples



Donna Bell – an expert knitter – decided to increase her crochet skills and took a class called Homage to the Granny Square. She used six shades of each of the six main colours.



Here Jean Newsted (left) is showing us her throw made of handspun yarn all dyed with natural dyes – most of which she grew herself. It still looks this good after almost 40 years on the foot of her bed!



Linda Johnson has recently completed a shawl called Seasonal Colour. The warp is rayon from bamboo. The weft is knotted thrums of cotton and rayon. The warp is shaded from selvedge to selvedge black, grey, white, and back through grey to black. This represents midnight to midnight - the rotation of the earth on its axis. The weft colours from one end to the other represent the earth's orbit around the sun; the seasonal colours of the natural world.



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## Eugene Weavers

Highlights from Eugene include a program in January from Jeremy Uden on Doubleweave, one from our own Ruth MacGregor on Bandweaving, and in March, a Members' Tea! Our study groups have been busy, too, with the Weave Structures Study Group completing a group warp (photo included) based on a parallel weave from Handwoven Sept/Oct 2023 - Dreaming of Butterflies Shawl by Merriel Miller - they wove runners. The Beyond8 Study Group has mounted a show in the ETC Gallery, and providing the April program on projects sharing a common profile (photos included).

Our Members' Tea was very well received - we love show & tell and visiting with each other, and the break between our business meeting and the program is not enough! It was lovely to have time to chat, share stories and tips, and get to

know each other just a little better! With the advent of Zoom meetings, our membership has become a little farther flung, so we even had a hosted "table" on Zoom for our non-local members.

The Beyond8 group identified a 4 block profile, and each weaver interpreted the same profile using 8 or fewer shafts, more than 8 shafts, and "Something Wild". Structures run from Atwater Bronson Lace to Repp, Summer and Winter, Doubleweave, Bergman, Bateman, Deflected Doubleweave and Block Twill. It's a really wide variety of projects, and it should be a fun program - stop by and see the show if you're in the neighborhood during the month of April!

Several members are also wrapping up participation in the "Big Weave", completing overshot samples for the new version of the Handweaver's Pattern Book. (photo included). We had at least 17 weavers, and completed 43 pages of Overshot! We are really looking forward to the book coming out next year!

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## **Gorge Handweavers Guild**

The Gorge Handweavers Guild cut off the second swath of fabrics for the Timberline Lodge on March 20, 2026. The fabric measured 21+ yards. It has been delivered to Lisa Riversong, the Timberline's Art Curator. She will be sending it onto the next step in it journey to becoming chair cushions. We are already in the process of setting up the loom to weave more fabric for this endeavor. The following photos are of the fabric being cut off the loom, guild members measuring and checking the final fabric and warping the loom for the next warp!



Mary Davis, Gorge Handweavers Guild ANWG Rep

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## Monashee Spinners and Weavers

### Together We Weave

Is history an important part of your guild? What information such as documents, minutes, woven items should be preserved by a guild? What will be important 25 or 50 years from now? How do we collect? How do we preserve that history and how do we do all of that consistently? With so much of our information online now, how is that saved?

A small team worked diligently for 22 months to create a pattern and history book that represents our guild weaving together for 75 years. We published it last November.

*"We are so grateful to those fine women who started this group – they worked so hard to establish something worthwhile and it is still flourishing."*

*Jean Korth, Lethbridge Handicraft Guild History. 1983*

The book contains over 40 patterns, a historical introduction and many "thrums"; little interesting bits and pieces gleaned from our records.

Thrums:

From the minutes of an LHG monthly meeting...

Catherine is to be a mother, so Sheila (Jacobson) will be a lucky grandmother again.

Fran (Schultz), also to be grandma again.

Donna (Simpson) wants to be a grandma and will not weave any more baby blankets until she gets her wish, hope chest is full!

It was through the creation of this book--finding the patterns, ensuring all the information needed was collected so our members may copy the patterns at home, gathering the pictures, and researching our history--that really made us so appreciative of what we have. Former member Jean Korth documented our guild's history through 1983. Her very hard work, plus many long hours at our Lethbridge Galt Museum and Archives, helped us rediscover so many interesting events. However, one glaring problem became evident. In 75 years, we had not retained one piece of weaving from any of our wonderful previous members. Although many of us will not be here, what legacy should be built for a display celebrating 100 years?

It is another monumental task. A few decisions have been made: each year we now keep a towel from our Annual Dishtowel project, and we have started to find and collect some precious pieces woven by the wonderful members who belonged to our guild over the years. We have also made a small change in our minutes, and our current secretary keeps careful notes about our monthly Show and Tell and any interesting discussion that takes place. It was these sections, rather than just motions that provided the most interesting and notable information for our book, and certainly the history that prompted a lot of laughs.

Thrums:

From February 1977 LHG meeting minutes:

The threading and sleying of the baby blanket is now completed so the word is GO. Mention should be made here that Mr. Von Chorus assisted his wife in the sleying of the baby blanket and also assisted her in some of the work involved in getting the second warp for doubleweave on the multiple harness loom.

It is not everyday we have a gentleman available to assist us and note should be made we should thank him especially for taking this interest.

For those Canadian weavers today who may not be aware of how all of this started we share this brief history. In 1902, the Women's Art Association of Montreal organized a significant exhibition of handicrafts. The following year, the Association established a permanent selling Centre, and in 1905 the Federal Government invited the Association to arrange an exhibition of Canadian handicrafts, granting funds to present it at the World's Fair in St. Louis. This led to the foundation of a new organization, the Canadian Handicrafts Guild, which allowed for the creation of branches across Canada. The Alberta Provincial Branch was formed in April 1928, and the Lethbridge branch followed in 1935. During the Second World War, Lethbridge and other local guilds disbanded to focus on Red Cross efforts. Lethbridge was reorganized in 1949 as the Lethbridge Handicraft Guild.

The first recorded meeting of the re-established guild took place in May 1949, with eleven charter members gathering at the Gas Company Auditorium. By the fourth meeting, the group had grown and relocated to the Red Cross Rooms. It should be noted that the looms had to be covered for Blood Donor clinics held in the same room. In 1964 the guild moved to the Bowman Arts Center, staying there until 2013, when Casa, our new community arts center, opened.

The guild has experienced many changes over the years. In 1950, members explored a wide variety of crafts including copper work, rug making, petit point, glove making, tooled leather, flower craft, aluminum etching, smocking, and novelties. By 1954, weaving became the core interest of the guild. The Lethbridge guild has actively participated in provincial conferences of the Handweavers, Spinners, and Dyers of Alberta (HWSDA), consistently contributing booths showcasing its weaving and hosting two conferences. Members have received awards from both HWSDA and the Association of Northwest Weavers (ANWG). The guild's work has been displayed in local venues such as the Bowman Arts Center, Casa, Lethbridge Public Library, Taber Public Library, the Galt Museum, and at the 1996 Winter Games hosted by Lethbridge. The COVID-19 pandemic posed significant challenges, including the loss of access to Casa for an extended period, but the guild remained resilient. Members stayed connected, supported one another, and continued to facilitate weaving and sales opportunities. One activity started during COVID but

continuing today is the annual “dishcloth challenge”. Each year, member Judy Hasinoff suggests a pattern to explore. Interested members weave 5 dishcloths--4 for exchange and one donation to the guild (for sale). This year, a small change; hand towels with the same rules. Another new and fun project this year is our “Blind Date with a Warp”. 12 members met to exchange surprise warps in a gift bag; 480 ends of 2/8 cotton, 8 yards long. At the Christmas Potluck next December each maker of a warp will receive a dishtowel with the weavers retaining the remainder.

Today, most members identify as the Lethbridge Weavers, a name used for all social media and advertising. Even as things evolve, some elements stay constant—lasting friendships, an enthusiasm for weaving, and a generous spirit of community. As the guild celebrated 75 years, members honored those who came before and celebrated those who continue the tradition today.

Today, we have an amazing guild with 45 members. Working cooperatively has always been the basis for our guild and that continues today. We currently have 13 floor looms and 7 table looms with a variety of harnesses. Any member can propose a project to be woven at the guild outlining details such as weave structure, size, colors and pattern source. Members interested in weaving may sign up for jobs such as making the warp, preparing the loom, rolling on, threading, and sleying. Warps today are typically 25 to 30 yards. Any member who wants to weave may sign up on our online calendar. Often a second warp, perhaps with color changes, is tied on and off we go again. With so many weavers it is always fascinating to see how different each project is as the members may weave color and treadling of their choice. We offer a Taste of Weaving class to the public once a month, taught by volunteers in our guild which not only brings more awareness to our guild, but has attracted many to become members. Our general meetings still conclude with tea, socializing and Show and Tell. Truly, together we weave.

Thrums:

Pavan, Elizabeth M. It's About Time: Poems by Elizabeth M. Pavan.

Gifted to LHG December 18, 1996. (Elizabeth was a long-time member of the Lethbridge Handicraft Guild)

# Joys of Weaving

Side by side, Dianne and I,  
Casually chatting while shuttles ply  
Across the warp on adjacent looms,  
Located in the Lethbridge weavers' room.

Warp and weft - lamms and treadles,  
Reeds and dents - harnesses and heddles,  
Shuttles and bobbins - counterbalance or jack.  
How could one's mind ever keep track  
Without a weaver's dictionary up the sleeve?  
Since the Guardian Angel said,  
"Thou shalt weave!"

Dressing the loom - sleying the reed,  
Very unfamiliar terms, indeed.  
21 e.p.i. - sett at 2 per dent -  
To master them all - was my intent.

Make a drawdown - 'tromp as writ!  
Before one's eyes, threads begin to fit  
Into a pattern of pure delight.

Thank you, Guardian Angel, you were right  
In directing my thoughts that I may  
Experience Joys of Weaving,  
'Til end of day!

We would love to hear from other guilds. Anyone interested in more information from us may contact us at [hello.yqlweavers@gmail.com](mailto:hello.yqlweavers@gmail.com).

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## Missoula Weavers

We are busily wrapping up the details for the conference here in June. (I hope to have an official press release from the museum by the end of day today so you may see a second email from me.) Jennie Meinershagen, Communications

A la Carte Registration Opens April 15th.

Check <https://www.montanaweavespin.org/> for details.

There are openings in weaving, spinning, knitting and basketry workshops.

MONTANA ASSOCIATION  
OF SPINNERS AND  
WEAVERS



JUNE 12-22, 2026  
AT  
UNIVERSITY OF  
MONTANA  
MISSOULA, MT

**BATEMAN WEAVES EXHIBIT**

**MONTANA MUSEUM OF ART & CULTURE** (MMAC on the University of Montana Campus)  
May 8th - September, 2026



“Dr. Bateman’s weaving samples demonstrate how an ancient technology can continue to inspire innovation. Long lost to dark basements, these samples are again seeing the light of day and becoming available to weavers and designers thanks to the MMAC and digital technology.”

Members of the Missoula Weavers Guild have worked with MMAC to create this exhibit.

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## **Monashee Spinners and Weavers**

The Monashee Spinners & Weavers held our 4<sup>th</sup> annual retreat on Fri Feb 20<sup>th</sup>, Sat 21<sup>st</sup> and Sun 22<sup>nd</sup>. We had 25 of our members attend at sometime over the weekend even if they could not attend all the days. We had a table loom set up with a tubular double weave small warp to make stuffed pincushions. One of our new spinners tried weaving for the first time and made a great pin cushion, after just watching some others weave theirs and following the written directions with just a bit of oversight.

We also had a tapestry set up with a mountain scene with a lake and rocks in the foreground. We are toying around with the idea of making a tapestry depicting our area that we could use for display at some of our events. Very time consuming but several members did small amounts on it.

One of our members has Angora rabbits and donated 3 colours of angora rabbit fluff so our spinners could try spinning angora directly and/or also use the fluff in an Encasement technique using very fine 2/60 silk thread which allows one to stretch out the amount of angora used and still have a strong fluffy spun yarn. Another member brought some clay powder and many tried making clay balls, letting them dry overnight and then finishing them the next day with a finer clay and incorporating colour from flower petals or a clay pigment. And finally polishing the balls.

We have a planned pot luck, for each meal, so that no one has to do all the cooking or clean-up. The facility is a large log home with 5 bedrooms so many people can stay overnight and those living close by sometimes just stay through the day and evening and sleep at home. We have time to get to know each other a little better.

We bring our spinning wheels, knitting, small tapestry looms, and of course some show and tell which gets lots of discussion going about techniques, problems, solutions and of course the final results receive lots of oohs and aahs. We discuss our group plans for the year, have lots of laughs, and we do actually get some spinning done.

Louise Smith, ANWG rep



< clay balls

tapestry >  
in progress



< Show and Tell

Monashee >  
Retreat  
Spinners



## North Olympic Shuttle and Spindle

Membership has been growing with current membership up to 75 members. We're working hard to reach out to younger members offering two monthly mentoring meet ups for newbies and mentors on call. We are beginning a couple of offshoot study groups that will do deep dives into specific areas of study. Our newest group will begin by studying Doubleweave/doublecloth. This year we have offered several fun workshops and programs.

- Study of Blocks and Fiberworks Software with Robyn Spady
- Bead Embroidery Class with Karen Sixkiller
- Pine Needle Basketry Class with Barbara Osborne
- Members who attended the 2025 ANWG conference displayed their work and reported on what they learned. Jennifer Pelikan told us about her ANWG Conference Scholarship program for Beginning Weaving.
- Reports on Textile travels to Scotland & Sweden.
- Next up, two workshops in May with Kathrin Weber. Dyeing painted warps and weaving with them by Kathrin Weber.

Lastly, our Guild History is being preserved digitally. We've formally existed since 1970's.

- Chrysalis Carter, rep

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## Salem Fiberarts Guild

Introducing the new Salem Fiberarts Guild (SFG) website! Find us at [www.salemfiberartsguild.com](http://www.salemfiberartsguild.com). The site includes information on our latest events and how to become a member. Check it out!

Following our February meeting, several SFG members crafted a sheep pom-pom wreath, made of handspun wool yarn donated by fiber friends from the Oregon State Fair and by members of SFG. Others felted a border collie to keep the ring of sheep organized. The entire flock is happily displayed at SFG's studio at the Willamette Heritage Center.

Rebecca Smith spoke (via Zoom) at our January meeting. Her presentation "Seeking the Light: Handwoven Transparencies and Beyond" featured delicate transparent works woven to let light filter through the fabrics, accented by sections of inlay weaving. Our March speaker was Ilsa Perse, a fiber artist and natural dyer from McMinnville, Oregon, who shared her beautiful textile works of art that she naturally dyed in many wonderful colors.

The Wear Your Weaving study group is back! Members met in March, sharing handwoven jackets, tops, and fabrics ready for future projects. These projects inspired members to overcome their fear of scissors and dream of other wonderful creations.

This spring, SFG members will be busy designing textile entries for the Oregon State Fair (August 28 – September 7, 2026).

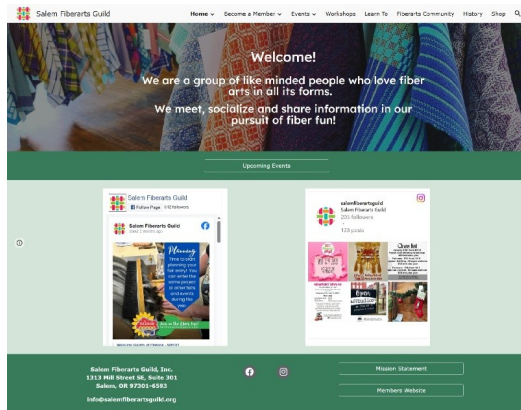
Renay McLeish, Salem Fiberarts Guild



Sheep wreath with border collie  
Claudia Gahagan



Gordon Smith, Dorald Stoltz, and  
Claudia Gahagan



Salem Fiberarts new website home page

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## SKAGIT VALLEY WEAVERS' GUILD:

The Skagit Valley Weavers' Guild, like many other guilds, meets once/month ... on the 1<sup>st</sup> Saturday of the month from September through June. The meetings draw members not only from Skagit County (Mt Vernon, Bow, Burlington, Fir Island, La Conner and Anacortes +) but also from Bellingham (Whatcom County) and Marysville (Snohomish County). Meetings are held both in person at the Allen United Methodist Church and on Zoom. In addition to the monthly Saturday meetings, there are spinning groups that meet once/month

respectively at the Mt Vernon Sr Center and at Steely River Yarns in Stanwood. The monthly Saturday meetings include a program/presentation either in person or on Zoom and an in-person Show & Tell. [Meetings are always available for members who are not present.]

In February, the program was presented by two members of SVWG. Nancy Deitch spoke about the spinning groups, which she described as a subset of SVWG. In particular, she talked about the Breed Study that the group had been conducting using fleece from local breeders. These included fiber spun from Tunis, Baby Doll, Southdown, Gotland, and Jacob sheep. She talked about the preparation, the differences in texture and the ease of spinning and then showed and talked about the results in a shawl made from a combination of all.

After a short break, Susan Torntore discussed the importance of Fiber Identification (how to really know what that cone or skein that you picked up at a sale or auction is): being able to identify and recognize the physical characteristics (the look, feel, ply, how easily does it break, etc) and explained how to do a burn test to identify whether the fiber is protein, cellulose or manufactured, whether it is a mixed or blended yarn, etc. She provided a page of information which also included samples of the different yarn types and talked about the tools helpful for the burn test (fiber, candle, matches, scissors, tweezers), what the yarn looks like and the smell.

There was, as always, a show and tell after the presentation. These included towels and a shawl, both done on the same warp, by Susan Sanderson, an uncut striped twill gamp by Zack Pope, eco/botanical printing by Wendy Pare, a first tapestry by Janet Bailey and a tapestry of a woven basket by Roxane Colburn. (photos below) *sent separately*

At the April meeting, SVWG hosted a zoom presentation by Sarah Saulson, from Providence, Rhode Island. She began weaving at 8 yrs old, has taught Fiber Arts at Syracuse University, has published in Handwoven and now teaches at the Rhode Island Weaving Center in addition to teaching at Conferences and to Guilds. In her presentation, titled "Handmade Cloth: Exploring Ritual", she spoke about how she explores and uses color, pattern, and texture while weaving Jewish prayer shawls (tallitot) and showed the variations that could be made on one long hand-dyed warp. Because she weaves the tallit on a commission basis, Sarah is able to incorporate colors and patterns that have particular meaning to the future wearer.

Her presentation was followed by Show and Tell, which included rag placemats by Nicoletta Harrington, a rep weave runner, table mat and towels by Susan Wilson, shibori dyeing by Vicki Wesen and towels by Molly Gerhard.

Submitted by Gloria Lebowitz, ANWG Rep



< table runner,  
mat, and towels  
by Susan Wilson



Rag placemats by >  
Nicolette Harrington



< Towels and shawl  
(pink and red weft)  
by Susan Sanderson



Tapestry of woven bowl  
by Roxanne Coburn >



< eco/botanical dyeing by  
Wendy Pare



Eagle tapestry (her first) >  
by Janet Bailey

Zach Pope's  
weaving



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## Tacoma Weavers

This Guild year, the Tacoma Guild is working on building up their study group variety and participation. They currently have a tapestry group, garment group, band/tablet weaving study group, and are about to form a doubleweave study group. In addition, they have an open session for any fiber crafter hosted by LYS Fibers Etcetera, called "Fiber Fingers". We also have a traveling little loom we fondly call the CAMEL, that gets warped with interesting projects and gets passed around for the members to weave their own sample. CAMEL stands for Creative Approach to Mobile Education Loom.

We have found that study groups motivate a deeper dive into various topics, in a nurturing supportive manner, and enhance our skill set and command of a topic.

submitted by Rep - Linda Stryker



< Band study

CAMEL loom >



Tapestry study group



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## Victoria Weavers Guild

### Outreach with College Students

The Victoria Handweavers and Spinners Guild was contacted in February 2026 by an Education Department instructor from a local college. The instructor was teaching a class of adult students who were taking the Educational Assistants program. The instructor asked if guild members would be willing to spend an afternoon with the students introducing them to a variety of fibre crafts suitable for use in elementary and secondary classrooms.

Five members volunteered for this outreach activity. Showing up with boxes of supplies and tools, the volunteers set up five stations that all the students rotated through: Fibre Preparation using a Hand Carder; Creating Yarn using a Drop Spindle, Weaving on Cardboard Looms; Needle Arts--knitting, crochet, and cord-making using a lucet or knitting fork and kumihimo braiding; and Needle Felting. Each student left with a partially filled cardboard loom, yarn that they had spun from their carded wool, a small needle-felted animal, and needle art samples.

We also introduced the class to the activities of the Vancouver Island Fibreshed. Everyone was having so much fun, we have been invited to do this again. Our guild has several outreach activities that we are involved in annually -- this will now be part of our event calendar!

### Fibre from Stinging Nettles

Sharon Kallis from EarthHand Gleaners Society (<https://earthand.com>) taught a 2-day workshop on November 22nd and 23rd, 2025 on the processing and

spinning of dried stinging nettle stalks. Sharon discussed the availability and sourcing of stinging nettles on Vancouver Island, and their ethical harvesting and retting. She also brought fabric samples and clothing woven out of stinging nettle yarn for the members to handle and examine.

Ten guild members began with nettle stalks that Sharon had previously harvested, retted and dried. A guild member brought some fresh stalks for comparison. The stalks were first scraped, flattened, and cracked open, peeling off the tough outside fibre. A variety of scrapers, rolling pins, wash boards, and just hands were used in this step. Once the outer fibres were removed, the inner nettle fibres were worked to soften them up. A hackle was used to soften and separate the fibres. They were sorted by length and any remaining coarse outer fibre was removed. The nettle fibres were lightly carded, either to prepare them as rolags or to roll up in a tea towel as a distaff.

Finally, using drop spindles, the fibres were spun into yarn. Yarn was spun from both rolags and the tea towel distaffs. The rolags were a little easier to manage when using a drop spindle. The fibre felt remarkably soft and smooth considering its source.

### Sheep Shearing Support Project

Members of the Victoria Handweavers' and Spinners' Guild, in collaboration with the Vancouver Island Fibreshed, provided Sheep Shearing Support to a local farm on January 6th and 7th, 2026. The Fibreshed program involves teams of volunteers who are invited onto farms to evaluate fleeces as they are sheared from the sheep, sorting the fleeces and determining which are suitable for hand spinners.

The sheep at Parry Bay Farm are East Friesian, with some Texel, and some Finn; most of them are crosses. Most are white with a small number of coloured sheep.

There were volunteers from the Guild, the Fibreshed organization and some veterinary students on a practicum. Some of the Guild members had their Level 1 Certification in classing wool. The vet students helped move the animals, support the shearer, and move fleeces from one skirting table to another.

Each fleece was first assessed as to whether it was of handspinner quality. If not, the fleece was skirted to remove poop and tossed into a large bag to be sent to the wool board. If the fleece was worth spinning, it was folded up and brought over to the second skirting team. The second team did a more

extensive skirting, removing poop, excessive vegetable matter, and belly wool. The latter was moved into a separate bin so it could be sold by the farmer.

Information about the handspinner quality fleeces--staple length, amount of VM, softness, etc.-- was recorded on a sheet and the sheet was attached to the bag in which the fleece was packed.

At this event, 185 sheep were sheared over the course of the two days. The farmer benefited from knowing which fleeces could be offered to artisans, and the latter knew these fleeces had been skirting, assessed and judged to be of good quality. The lucky shearing-support volunteers also got to pick out any fleeces that they wanted!



< Wendy  
carding



< Jill with  
fibre arts

Jill  
needle felting



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## Whonnock Weavers

This winter and coming into spring the Whonnock Weavers and Spinners Guild has been doing a lot of learning! In February we had Nadine McSpadden teach us how to weave pouches with some small cardboard looms. I think we were all quite impressed with how nice the final products turned out from such basic looms.



March was for Macrame, and we had Carolyn Kranenburg teach us some of the history of the craft along with a number of different macrame knotting techniques. Many of us hadn't done macrame before, or hadn't done it in many years, and the participants had a good time trying it out!

A new Saturday knitting group has also started up. Our guild spent some time at our meeting in January brainstorming ideas on how to keep our members inspired to create, and this group sprung up out of that. It has been enjoyed a lot by those who attend.



In the coming months we'll be doing a big double weave workshop that our very own Trudy and Sheila will be teaching. It will be a wonderful opportunity for folks to learn some new weaving skills, and we're really looking forward to it.

Coming up in summer will also be doing hands-on demonstrations of carding and spinning, and weaving at the local Country Fest. It's something we've been part of for many years now.

We get lots of families and people of all ages try their hands at the various fibre arts. It's a whole lot of fun and we're really looking forward to it!

-Meredith Moulton Whonnock Weavers and Spinners

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## Fiber Events

CNCH

**Date:** May 14th - 17th, 2026

**Location:** Asilomar, California

Conference of Northern California Handweavers

[CNCH.org](http://CNCH.org)

### **Fiber in the Forest**

**Date:** May 14th - 17th, 2026

**Location:** Myrtle Point, Oregon

[Fiber in the Forest](#)

### **Fiber Fusion Northwest**

**Date:** June 6th & 7th, 2026

**Location:** Monroe, Washington

[FiberFusion.net](http://FiberFusion.net)

### **Montana Association of Weavers and Spinners Conference**

**Date:** June 16th - 21st, 2026

**Location:** Missoula, Montana

[MontanaWeaveSpin.org](http://MontanaWeaveSpin.org)

### **Black Sheep Gathering**

**Date:** June 26 - 28, 2026

**Location:** Albany, Oregon

[BlackSheepGathering.org](http://BlackSheepGathering.org)

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**ANWG INFORMATION**

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