

ANWG "Northwest News" Newsletter, October 2019 (Reps: please forward to all members of your guild)
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ASSOCIATION OF NORTHWEST WEAVERS' GUILDS
NORTHWEST NEWS

Volume 22, Issue 4

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Website: <https://northwestweavers.org>

CONTENTS

President's Message

ANWG News

News from Member Guilds

Fiber Events



President's Message

Fall is here-beautiful leaves all around town. Hope you're enjoying this new season and find some time and inspiration to weave, spin, and create fiber art.

The 2021 ANWG Conference website and blog is up and new information is being added as it is developed. <https://anwgconference2021.com>. Please visit the website and see what's already there and sign up to receive the ongoing information updates as we move toward June, 2021 in Salem. Blogs will increase to once a month starting next year, so stay tuned for regular information roll-outs.

The “Wrapped in History” study group lead by our Education Chair, Isabelle Fusey will be meeting again next year at the AMM, June 6, 2020 in Salem at Willamette University. The weaving topic for next year is “For the Table”. <https://northwestweavers.org/education/history-study-group/wrapped-in-history/>

Membership dues are due now to Liz Moncrief, Membership Chair. Go here for the form and send it to her along with your guild dues check made payable to Association of Northwest Weavers' Guilds, (spelled out), \$1 x the number of members in your guild as of June 30. <https://northwestweavers.org/about/membership/>

Some members of the board will be involved in a by-laws and standing rules review over this winter to update and clarify the procedures ANWG uses in all areas of the administration of the non-profit corporation. The proposed changes will be published prior to the AMM next June and voted on at that annual meeting.

More guild grant reports are featured in this newsletter. Please remember that if your guild received a grant this past year, we do need to have a report and photos of the event forwarded to my attention at president@northwestweavers.org. They will be included in a following newsletter.

Many of you know that the former publisher of Handwoven declared bankruptcy early this year and that Long Thread Media (Linda Ligon, Anne Merrow, and John Bolton) have purchased Handwoven Magazine, Spin Off Magazine, and PieceWork Magazine; formed a new company (Long Thread Media) and are carrying on the fiber arts publication tradition that Linda Ligon started over 40 years ago with the first Handwoven. She wrote this poem and I thought it especially appropriate to our organization as well:

For Barry Schacht and Jane Patrick, on the 50th Anniversary of Schacht Spindle Company

It was 1969, and I was yearning to weave. I don't know why.
My fractured life—mother of two, student, teacher, wife, neurotic—
I just wanted to weave. Thinking that would somehow make things whole.

So I bought a little loom. A little plastic loom that wove a little square.
And I wove square after square after square from dime store yarn, hoping that would

Make things whole.
It didn't.

I found my way to a funky shop in Boulder and it looked like heaven.
You know that look.
Amid the clutter and joy, a loom hung on the wall.
A simple frame, some heddle rods, the promise of cloth.
Cloth, as it came to pass, with odd gaps and sags and hourglass shape
And nothing like what my mind was yearning for.

For that, I needed a different loom, more loom,
With lifts and pedals and cranks and levers and cords.
Which, soon enough, that little shop in Boulder, grown big, was able to provide.

I could have just stuck to weaving cloth,
Warp after warp,
Yard after yard.
It could have been a good life.

But something still was missing.

The famous Zen koan says, What is the sound of one hand clapping?
Well, what is the sound of one loom thrumming and beating in solitude?
If one lone voice in the forest sings of weaving and there is no one to hear,
Is there any song?

Making things whole takes more than thread
More than looms, more than warp and weft.
It's those who make the looms, who make the cloth,
Who sing the songs together
Who weave their lives together,
Who make things whole.
Whole cloth.

—Linda Ligon

So as you enjoy this new season, new guild meetings, workshops, and friends, remember this poem and weave whole cloth together.

Linda Gettmann

ANWG News

From the Membership Chair

Hello members and Reps, this is a quick reminder that your Guilds' ANWG dues are due now. Checks must be submitted in US dollars, and must be made out to Association of Northwest Weavers Guild...not simply as ANWG. I have very fussy bank tellers here.

The mailing address (mine) is listed on the membership form which can be found on the ANWG website. And as always, we all appreciate your timely payments and your support of our big family.

Liz Moncrief

ANWG Members Gallery

Calling all guilds to showcase their work in the member's [gallery](#) of the ANWG website. Send the [webmaster](#) images of your handwoven, handspun, guild events, and more. The gallery is currently featuring the Denman Island "Sheep Count", a project funded by the ANWG Challenge Grant.

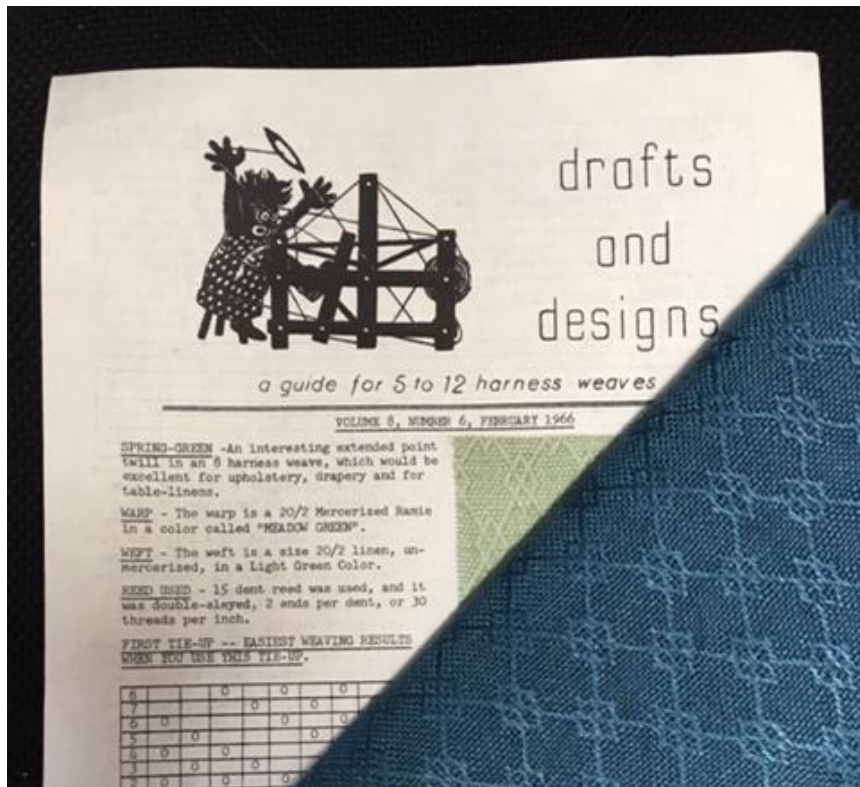
Isabelle Fusey

Wrapped in History Study Group: For the Table

We invite everyone to join ANWG's study group on the weaving history of the Pacific Northwest. Our challenge this year is to design and weave an item "for the table", drawing inspiration from sources such as family heirlooms, [Loom Music](#) (the January issue of each year is conveniently devoted to table linens), Atwater's [Recipe Book](#), Robin and Russ Groff [Warp&Weft](#) or [Drafts and Designs](#), and so on. For other ideas, see <https://northwestweavers.org/education/wrapped-in-history/> .

The deadline is June 6, 2020, to coincide with a Show & Share at the 2020 ANWG Annual Membership Meeting in Salem, OR. You do not have to attend in order to join the group. Our projects (luncheon sets, placemats, napkin, runners, tablecloths, and more) will be compiled into an eBook.

For more information email webmaster@northwestweavers.org.



Isabelle Fusey

Weaving Challenge 2021 ANWG Conference: Noh Coat

We invite weavers to join us in weaving cloth for, and making, American designer Bonnie Cashin's Noh coat as it appears in *Threads Magazine* Oct/Nov 1990 No. 31.

The coat is very simple and is especially suitable for handweavers who do not sew often. The coat is unlined, does not have set-in sleeves, and has binding for the edge. This means that the coat is all about the quality of the cloth. We have seen this design on all sizes and shapes of women. Our idea is that anyone interested will weave the coat in time for the ANWG conference in Salem in June, 2021. The more the merrier. It would be a spectacular expression of handwoven cloth. This is not a juried event, but we will have some event, perhaps a Happy Hour, to show off our coats at the Conference. Let's fill a room with Noh coats!

We hope you can join us. Here are the rules:

- The version of the Noh coat is the one mentioned above, no other. Cashin designed several coats she named Noh and you can find many pictures of them on the internet. But the one we will all be making is the one on the cover of *Threads Magazine* Oct/Nov 1990 (issue 31). This issue, complete with pattern, will be available on the ANWG 2021 Conference website.

- The design can be tweaked for sizing but the character of the coat in all its fullness must not be erased. No adding of collars, cuffs, hoods, or darts, for example. Keep it pure.
- You do not have to bind the seams or opening edge with leather as Cashin did. A bias binding makes a simple edge and can also be handwoven by weaving a tube and cutting it open like a straw. See *Weaver's Craft*, Winter 2001, Vol 2, No. 4, p. 12, "Tube for Bias Strips".
- Treat the seams any way you like.
- You may line any part of the coat to make it easier to slip on.
- The identifying feature of the Noh coat is its volume of cloth. Take this into consideration when designing your fabric, so that it does not become too heavy.
- Drape is a crucial element in this cloth. Be sure to sample and adjust your sett and beat accordingly. At the same time, be aware that if you have too open a sett, the fabric may drape well, but it may also stretch out. But if the sett is too close, you will end up with a dense Bog Jacket. Sample, sample, sample.

Most of us will have to seam the coat down the back. We have figured a warp of 31" wide in the reed and 7 yards long, which includes a sample, but it is probably advisable to add more length for more sampling. However, it is always best to do your own calculations to suit your own sizing and loom requirements. The important measurement is from the back of your neck down to the wrist, over the shoulder. This will give you half the width of the coat and will give you the *finished* width of your warp.

We are very grateful to *Threads* magazine for giving us permission to use the photo of the Noh coat on the front cover of the above issue, and for permission to use the pattern they developed for the coat. They have very generously supplied us with a PDF for sharing with all interested weavers.

For more information, contact Toby Smith at tobysmith@hotmail.com or Isabelle Fusey at ifusey@telus.net.

We plan to communicate through a Groups.io email group. To join the group, contact Isabelle at ifusey@telus.net.



News from Member Guilds

British Columbia: Denman Island Spinners and Weavers

CHALLENGE GRANT REPORT

Denman Island Sheep Count

Our goals for this project were to promote the use of locally grown fibre, raise the profile of fibre arts in our community, and provide an opportunity to learn how to create a shawl from raw fleece to yarn to woven product.

The project, which took place over a 12-month period, had many components: survey of local producers, workshops, spinning get-togethers, dye days, and public demonstrations.

According to our very informal survey, there are about 100 sheep on Denman Island (roughly one sheep per 10 humans). Compare this to 1,000 sheep back in 1929. We have Romneys, Baby Dolls, Suffolks, East Friesians, Clun Forests, Friesian Blacks, and various crossbreeds. Thirteen llamas and eight alpacas also call Denman home.

Building on an introductory weaving workshop taught by two guild members last year, we held a workshop on how to evaluate and prepare fleece, one workshop on spinning with a drop spindle, two beginner workshops on spinning with a wheel, and a workshop on dyeing with local plants. These workshops attracted over 40 participants.

The project culminated in a sheep-to-shawl demonstration at the Denman Island annual fall fair. We used a commercially available yarn for the warp and dyed half of it using local plants (arbutus bark, lungwort lichen, and rhubarb roots). We spun the weft from our favourite local fleece (Romney) which was donated by a local producer. The shawl was raffled by donation at the end of the day with the proceeds going to the Denman Island Food Bank. We also created educational panels for the demonstration area.

We feel our project was highly successful: we fostered new relationships between local producers and local artisans, some of us got over our fear of dyeing, we unleashed a talent for spinning in many attendees, and the sheep-to-shawl was a most popular event at the fair, second only to the zucchini race.

We thank ANWG for the generous grant that kick-started this project.



Pictures: Local Romney. Educational banners. Finished shawl.

Isabelle Fusey

British Columbia: Ponderosa Spinners, Weavers and Fibre Artists

CHALLENGE GRANT REPORT

The ANWG Challenge grant inspired us to support a challenge for our guild members to make wearable items. Several of our members volunteered to supplement digital resources to enhance a learning experience that could be used to create a wearable item. We had program speakers, a workshop, some instructive blog posts followed by hands on programs and activity days. This gave hands on experience as well as other forms of resources such as videos, books and magazines.

Our activities began with a one day hands-on workshop of techniques for sewing with handwoven fabrics with local weaver Sharon Wickstrom. Later on we enjoyed an inspiring talk and slide show by weaver and felt artist Renee Corder Evans. Several dye days at a member's farm allowed us to learn new dye techniques and to dye our fibres and fabrics as desired. Karla Lockwood of Relentless Knitting Company taught about shawl shapes and also using knitting gauge for sweater construction with a written blog post followed by a hands on program at our general meeting. We had a day of blending one colour of fleece with black and with white to create tints and tones under the guidance of Jody Atkinson. Using digital and library resources, we explored colour theory, blocking knits, construction and fit of garments and finishing as we tried to touch on all aspects of making a wearable item using our arts. Perhaps the most fun we had was to make a DIY mannequin of our own bodies using duct tape and a You-Tube video for instruction.

Some successes of this program included representation of both our guild and several of our individual members at Lake Country Art Walk with wearable items. This venue sees in the order of 7000 visitors and our fibre art was front and centre in the show. One of our wearable challenge pieces won an award at the ANWG Conference, Confluences, in Prince George this past summer. Several pieces sold in our 2018 November sale and were seen by the hundreds of customers who come to enjoy our work at that time. We anticipate more at our upcoming 2019 sale. We are currently displaying wearable items at our local public library, The Rotary Centre for the Arts in Kelowna and in our studio window. A number of members have decided to continue with this challenge and have new ideas of how to interpret the theme.

Thank you ANWG for the \$600USD Challenge Grant which allowed us to purchase a projector and accessories to enhance our resources and support our members for many years to come.



Val Ward

Oregon: Salem Fiberarts Guild

Salem Fiberarts Guild holds its annual sale the first weekend of October each year. We just finished our sale and it was a success! The sale benefits the Willamette Heritage Center <https://www.willametteheritage.org/>. The guild is housed at WHC and is very fortunate to have such wonderful space. The staff of WHC and Salem Fiberarts Guild members work together on various events and activities.



Ila McCallum

Montana: Helena Weavers and Spinners Guild

Greetings from Big Sky Country, So are you asking what the Helena Weavers and Spinners Guild is up to now??

We have been busy!

We are the hosting guild of the Montana Fiber Traditions exhibit at the Holter Museum of Art in downtown Helena from now until November 8, 2019. This is a celebration of our weavers, spinners, knitters, felters, tatters, seamstresses, and quilters with thread and fiber. The area is gorgeous. The pieces that were chosen for the exhibitions are so lovely. The artists are so talented. There is a finger-woven scarf done for Charlie Russell on loan from the Charlie Russell Museum in Great Falls, Montana. While the museum is open, the area is set up for an artist in residence. There are going to be three looms. One of which is set up for weaving blankets. Our members will be weaving on the looms. The blankets are to be raffled off for the public. Others will be coming in to spin, knit, quilt, and all things fiber related.

The museum created a beautiful sequence for demonstrating how one would complete a “sheep to shawl” project. There is also the commercial area which showcases just a few of our fiber businesses.

Please join us! Save the date for MAWS 2020 here in Helena, Montana! Check out the Helena Weavers and Spinners website <https://helenaweaversandspinners.org/> The guild has been busy making plans for our vision of what we want to display and communicate to the fiber community.

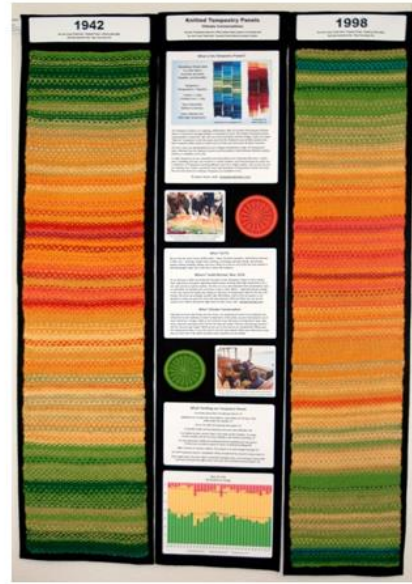
Remember, if you are passing through “Big Sky Country”, the gate is always open, the hearth is warm, and the fleeces are fine!

Jannine C. Vogley-Turner

Washington: San Juan County Textile Guild

The San Juan County Textile Guild thought you’d be interested in a project we were involved in this year that some of you may have heard of called the Tempestry Project. www.tempestryproject.com. We heard about this project at our retreat last Fall and decided we wanted to take part. According to its website:

The Tempestry Project is an ongoing, collaborative, fiber arts project that presents climate data in a visual form through knitted or crocheted art work. This project was founded by three young people in Anacortes who are concerned about climate change. In the few years since the first Tempestry was knitted, panels have been created by fiber artists in nearly every US state and more than 20 other countries. The yarn colors are standardized for each 5-degree temperature.



Each row of linen stitch knitting represents one day's high temperature.

We decided to take 100 years of weather data from the Olga weather station on Orcas Island. Twenty-five knitters took every fourth year between 1918 and 2018 and created a panel which was then blocked and attached to a black cloth for a consistent look.

Some non-knitters participated through other fiber art forms such as crocheting, weaving, and basketry. Our endeavors were displayed at the Pacific Northwest Quilt and Fiber Arts Museum in LaConner, Washington this Spring and will be shown at our County Fair in August.

We looked for visible change as we scanned across 100 years of temperature data. Living on the Salish Sea as we do, our temperatures are moderate and fluctuation is mild. If we found any patterns of climate change it was that the warmer temperatures came earlier in the year and stayed later.



Anita Barreca

Washington: Skagit Valley Weavers' Guild

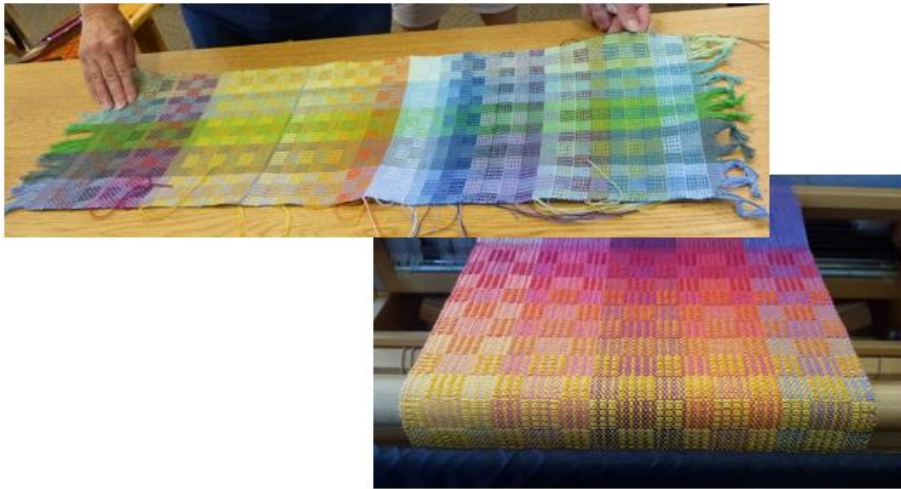
CHALLENGE GRANT REPORT

Sarah Jackson Color Workshop, May 16-18, 2019

Sarah Jackson's Color Workshop was very well received by 23 participants, all of whom were members of the Skagit Valley Weavers' Guild (SVWG). Because the workshop was filled by SVWG members, it was not offered to other guilds in the area. Sarah provided all participants with unique warps based on color analysis of a picture by an online color analysis tool. Participants wove a plain weave sampler using the warp colors and other colors desired. Then favorite colors were selected to weave a summer and winter sampler.

The goals of our grant funded project were to promote confidence in the use of color in woven fiber arts and to provide financial accessibility for Guild members. Nine of the participants reported that this was the first workshop they had ever attended, and about half of these were new weavers. Thirteen stated that the low cost made it possible or more attractive for them to attend. All agreed that their confidence in exploring and using color in their weaving was increased.

The ANWG grant, matching funds from SVWG, a \$40 participant fee, and a \$39 supply fee covered all costs of the workshop. Thank you to ANWG for providing this opportunity to SVWG members.



Jean Brown

Washington: Whidby Weavers Guild

CHALLENGE GRANT REPORT

Ebey's Tapestry is a guild study group, one of many, that is a part of the Whidbey Weavers Guild. With the support of the Guild, the tapestry group sought and was awarded an ANWG Challenge Grant. The \$600 grant was applied in full to help offset the expenses of a three-day workshop, Introduction to Tapestry Weaving with Terry Olson, at the Pacific Rim Institute in Coupeville, Washington.

Through the workshop, we sought to develop technique and to provide beginners with a good base. We hoped to build each weaver's confidence in their ability to handle tapestry tools and materials.

Upon receipt of the award, the group began efforts to raise awareness of and interest in the workshop and in tapestry in general. We submitted tapestries to the Island County Area Fair in Langley, Washington, and participated in the 2019 ATA Unjuried Small Format Tapestry exhibit in Reno, Nevada.

We ordered seine twine for the workshop and made sure there would be pipe looms for all participants (especially for beginners). We emphasized that we were there for support. The sixteen workshop spaces were filled on the first day of sign-up! The Ebey's Tapestry group conducted a Warping Day on August 13, 2019, which was attended by ten workshop students, to ensure that looms would be ready the moment the workshop began.

Terry Olson made a presentation to the Guild membership on Thursday, September 5, 2019. The workshop was held, to great success (see TESTIMONIALS below) on September 6-8, 2019. Thank you, ANWG, and thank you, Terry!!



TESTIMONIALS

Terry is incredibly knowledgeable and able to meet each learner where they are and translate her teaching into understandable terms for each learner's level. She is humble, funny, non-judgmental and very generous in her spirit.

For an absolutely beginning tapestry weaver this class was perfect. Terry can teach to the level of each student and encourages each to try the next level of difficulty.

Tapestry tools workshop with Terry Olson was enlightening and transformational. My curiosity and interest in tapestry weaving has been ignited! Thank you so much for this opportunity to learn a fascinating, beautiful and ancient art form.

I've been weaving tapestry for a pretty long time but I've learned new things from Terry Olson, the best tapestry teacher I know. Sincere thanks to Terry for sharing her skill and good humor.

Thank you, ANWG!!

Emily Shinn, Project Leader, Whidbey Weavers Guild

Fiber Events

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

Montana Association of Weavers and Spinners 2020 Conference-- Visions in Fiber

Conference June 25-28; Post Conference Workshops June 28-30 to be held at Carroll College, Helena, Montana

For more information: helenaweaversandspinners.org

ANWG Newsletter Deadlines and Formats

The deadline for news articles for the ANWG newsletter "Northwest News" is the 10th of the month of issuance: January, April, July, and October. Articles may be sent at any time to newsletter@northwestweavers.org.

Articles should be no longer than two pages typewritten and contain a maximum of three photos. Newsy, short articles with photos about guild happenings are of greatest interest. All photos sent may be used in the ANWG newsletter "Northwest News" and/or on the ANWG website. Before sending photos obtain permission of those people pictured to have their photo in the ANWG newsletter and/or website. If you have any questions, contact Ila McCallum, Communications Chair and Newsletter Editor, at newsletter@northwestweavers.org.

This newsletter is in HTML format. If you would like it in a pdf file, please go to our website: <https://northwestweavers.org/about/newsletters/>.

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 7-13, 2021 -- Location: Salem, OR. Sponsor: Weaving Guilds of Oregon

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

ANWG BOARD MEMBERS

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Association of Northwest Weavers' Guilds

ANWG Newsletter

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