

January 2011

WHATCOM WEAVER'S GUILD

Promoting community interest and education in textiles, and communication among fiber artist, with an emphasis on weaving

Regular Meetings:

September through June, 2nd Wednesday of the month

6:30pm- -Social time

7:00pm- -Short business meeting, Show & Tell,

7:30pm- - Scheduled program

St. James Presbyterian Church (Westside, lower level)

910-14th Street, Bellingham, WA. 98225

JANUARY MEETING:

Wednesday, January 12, 2011

6:30

President's message:

Thank you, everyone, for your responses to the survey questions. We also had many useful suggestions added. The results give the current and next board, as well as the Fibers and Beyond committee, information to help make decisions based on the priorities of most members.

Here is a brief summary.

Our primary reason for joining the Guild is to meet others with common interests. The strongest reason for staying is to learn from other members, program speakers, Fibers and Beyond sale and a sense of community, in that order of importance. The top five interests are weaving, household linens, knitting, dyeing and design.

For program speakers, we prefer an even variety of "name" speakers, modest fee speakers, member presentations and small groups. We also like a variety of topics.

Show and Tell is valued for seeing the work of others, sharing our own works and a sense of community. Most preferred to not keep the door prize.

In the library, books are most valued and preferences for spending are new books and DVD's followed by magazine subscriptions.

Regarding finances, a large majority favored a dues increase (average suggested change was to increase dues to \$26), Fibers and Beyond fee and commission remain the same, June stash sale free to members and no charge to attend programs. The largest preference for any extra funds was for programs. We are happy with a reserve savings of about \$5,000.

The 40th Anniversary event was not strongly favored. Some suggestions were to promote it at F and B this year and to wait until the 50th for a larger event.

A special thank you to Sheri Ward for developing the questions and tabulating results. The full survey details will be distributed when we have all the results in (a couple more coming).

I hope everyone had a great Christmas holiday and look forward to seeing you in January.

Donna Hunter

Programs for January and the rest of the year

At our January meeting, we will be putting together “Goody Bag” items for the Association of Northwest Weavers Guilds (ANWG) conference to be held this June in Salem, OR. We’ll be assembling note cards with small pieces of hand-woven fabric in them. Elsewhere in this newsletter, Gloria Lebowitz, our ANWG representative, has a comprehensive description of what we’ll be doing. Be sure to read through her list of things that we’ll need at January’s meeting and see what you could bring. It should be fun!

Our February meeting will be a chance to meet and share in small interest groups, and get to know each other a little better. So far, we have possible groups for spinning, felting, beading, dyeing, embellishments, weave structure, clothing, ethnic textiles, and photo transfer. All of this is tentative at this point, but it will take form as the time draws closer. So there are a lot of topics to choose from. If there’s some other interest area you’d like to see included, please let me know by early January. (Call or email Sheri Ward at sheriward@clearwire.net)

Jan. 12: Making ANWG goodie bags

Feb. 9: Small interest groups

Mar. 9: Madelyn van der Hoogt, editor of Handwoven, speaking on the state of handweaving today

Apr. 13: Barbara Heller, tapestry artist

May 11: Anita Mayer, noted clothing artist, speaking on “The Creative Journey”

June 8: Stash sale

*NEXT BOARD MEETING:

Next Board Meeting: Wednesday, January 19th, 2011 at 6:30

at Richard Harvey's community building, #510 Darby.

***THE DAYTIME WEAVERS:**

Day-weavers are now meeting at the Roeder Home on the first Thursday of each month @ 10:30am.

DAY TIME WEAVERS NOTICE EVERY MONTH

This group is open to all and you don't have to be a guild member so bring a friend or two. Questions? Call Joan Cunningham 733-8820.

See you there.

>From your ANWG Representative:

Report from ANWG Board regarding the results of the poll about the Video Library:

Based upon the input from member guilds, the ANWG Board has voted to sell the VCRs and retain the DVD library, monitor the usage, and decide at a future date whether or not to retain this portion of the library.

The VCRs will be sold during the 2011 ANWG Silent Auction which will be held during the Exploring Fiber Horizons conference in Salem, OR. The Auction will be held in the Vendor Hall on the Saturday of Conference. Items will be set out with a bid sheet, and the auction will open at around noon and conclude by 6pm, prior to evening events.

ANWG Conference:

The ANWG Conference Schedule is now available online at <http://www.exploringfiberhorizons.com/>. Registration will

begin on January 1, 2011.

ANWG BOOTH:

The Conference is being hosted by The Weaving Guilds of Oregon [WeGo] who have chosen the theme of Exploring FIBER horizons. They have suggested the following with regard to the theme: "Look into the future; see where we are going as fiber artists. Weave the creativity of the past into your fiber explorations; the sky's the limit! Use the Conference theme to reach your own horizons...

The concept for the WWG Booth is to expand upon the idea of exploration which, to many, means travel. So, for the WWG booth, use the Conference colors, or any variation of them, and a piece -- or picture -- of a textile that you discovered in your travels and that inspires you to create a new piece in the Conference colors. Make a photocopy of the piece that inspired you and the piece you have made for a notebook that will accompany the booth exhibit.

The colors of the conference are blue, green, and gold ... more specifically Yale blue (UKI 63), Winter green (UKI 138), and Gold (UKI 10).

Yale blue and Winter green can be seen at

<http://www.villagespinweave.com/IBS/SimpleCat/product/ASP/product-id/36986066.html>

Gold can be seen at

<http://www.villagespinweave.com/ibs/simplecat/product/asp/product-id/36987678.html> (but any variation of these colors should be fine)

If you have any questions, please contact me or ask for clarification at the January meeting.

Gloria Lebowitz glolebow@yahoo.com

Conference Goody Bag item – to be assembled at the January meeting:

We will be sending approximately 300 note cards with envelopes to the Hosts of the Conference for the goody bags. Although the cards are tri-folds, we will be encasing a piece of woven fabric between 2 pages using wonder-under. These will be completed prior to the January meeting. The card stock we are using is white so that any kind of fabric will show well in the hole that has been cut in the card. We hope to have all of the cards completed for the January meeting so that at the January meeting we can complete the project.

At the January meeting, we will be making envelopes for the cards, using calendar or other colorful pages which we will cut using a template, applying a label with our name to the card and then assembling the materials by placing them in plastic envelopes. Preparing the card envelopes will take the longest time but should be fun. Please come to the meeting bringing Scissors, calendar or magazine pages to be cut up for envelopes, a glue stick or a tape runner, and a bone folder or burnisher or whatever else might help you make clean folds.

The cards have already been folded but we could use some extra help applying the fabric to the cards. We are hoping to do some, if not all, at the Day Weavers meeting but we might need to arrange other times as well (prior to our January meeting). If you can help, please contact me, Gloria Lebowitz, or Joan Dudley or Marcia Ford. Phone numbers are in the membership booklet. Irons will be needed for applying the fabric as will portable ironing boards. Scissors would be helpful. We might have enough fabric but

if you have some extra pieces that you would like to donate to "the cause", please let us know. Also, we have some wonder-under but might need more ... if you have some to donate.

THANK YOU IN ADVANCE,
Gloria Lebowitz, ANWG representative/Member-at-Large

*CLASSIFIED ADS:
No ads this month

OUTREACH /COMMUNITY EDUCATION

Walk-in weaving and spinning
The guild's PROGRAM AT THE ROEDER HOME to provide walk-in weaving and spinning opportunities has been a rewarding experience for guild members and helpful for people who have attended.

Our attendees have spanned the range from a group of 10 home-schoolers to a retired lady who had been a proficient weaver once upon a time and just needed some help getting started again. Time will tell, but it seems likely that several of our visitors may eventually attend guild meetings and become active. They vary in how much help they need, and may well be looking to you, other guild members, for encouragement and advice.

In general, we are there each second and fourth Wednesday of the month from 1 to 3 p.m.

We are always open to additional guild members who would like to help, either at our special time with the Girl Scouts or at our regular times. We like to have three to four guild members present, with at least one spinner and one weaver. If you can offer some time, please contact me

and let me know when you would like to help.
Thanks. Sheri Ward, shereward@clearwire.net.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION-

Weavers Guild attains more than longevity
Weaving is an ancient art form, so it's maybe not
surprising that the local collective of weavers is reaching
the ripe old age of 75 this month.

COURTESY OF TACOMA PUBLIC LIBRARY

Woven baskets by Mimi Anderson, Marlis Hanson and Sally
Slater are displayed in the 75th anniversary show at the
Handforth Gallery at the Tacoma Public Library.

SIMILAR STORIES

Whatcom Weavers showcase talent, sale items at weekend show

In the Spirit celebrates art, culture

The Saturday Art Walk: An outing for any kind of weather

Sh-h-h-h-h? Forget it at South Sound libraries

New interactive Gig Harbor museum aims to please with
state-of-the-art exhibits

Weaving is an ancient art form, so it's maybe not
surprising that the local collective of weavers is reaching
the ripe old age of 75 this month.

But the Tacoma Weavers Guild has good reason to be the
longest-running organization of its kind in the region, say
members: It offers constant learning, support and sharing –
and a collective skill that's on display through Dec. 31 at

the Tacoma Public Library.

“It’s such a fantastic group of people,” says Trish Randall, a member since 1960. “They’re so sharing, they’ll tell you exactly how they made something. We’re a sisterhood – we take care of each other.”

Generosity with knowledge has been a goal of the guild since it began in 1935, when Swedish immigrant Margaret Bergman got together with a local college textile professor to hold the first meeting on Dec. 7 in downtown Tacoma’s Fisher Store. Bergman was a national figure in weaving: She’d brought her skills with her from Sweden to Poulsbo, and after her husband made her a new loom, she began to travel, demonstrating in Seattle and beyond and inventing looms and patterns.

It was Washington’s first weaving guild, and it began with a mission to teach and share: The 22 women present agreed unanimously to give half of their dues back to Bergman to help her establish a local weaving center and print a booklet of her own designs. With the January visit of a University of Washington textile professor, they also kick-started a visiting lecturer series that continues to this day, and is something members say keeps the group alive.

“What I get out of it most is the classes,” says Kay Schraeder of the monthly presentations that have included English rug weaver Jason Collingwood, Canadian silk weaver Karen Selk, garment weaver Sarah Fortin of New Hampshire and many more. “As a group we’ve been able to bring instructors that would be impossible for an individual. I’m a consummate student – there’s always something new to learn.”

Guild members also share their own techniques. At the

monthly meeting in St. Andrews Church near the Narrows, members pore over scarves, baskets and pillows at the Show-and-Tell table, exclaiming over new ideas and telling about their own. Also on the table is the CAMEL, a small, eight-harness table loom manipulated by hand levers that is loaned to group members to teach particular patterns. Books can be borrowed from the library, sub-groups such as the spinners' group meet separately, and spare yarn "stashes" are regularly offered up cheap or free.

The guild also reaches out to the public, and won the 2003 Margaret K. Williams Arts Award from the Pierce County Arts Commission for that work. They contribute to local associations, demonstrate at festivals and fairs, visit schools and arts centers, and organize exhibits.

At the Tacoma Public Library's main branch, one such exhibit runs the gamut of the organization, from historical patterns to funky 1970s weavings to contemporary fiber jewelry. The 75th anniversary show, up through the end of the month, honors the Guild's work through the ages.

In the entryway, Lucite cases hold delicate necklace "purses" of copper and cedar, a complex gray tapestry just three by four inches, an indigo basket with hot pink figures embroidered inside. Upstairs near the Northwest Room is a display of historical patterns and books.

Hung around the library's Handforth Gallery are decades of difficult, intricate work: garments and scarves in iridescent colors, Haida-style cedar baskets, an installation of 75 towels woven by 15 members to honor the anniversary and, right around the back, a glorious 1970s wall-hanging, some 10 feet by 12 feet, spelling out LOVE in fuschia and vermillion funky-font weaving.

Luana Sever, who at 92 is still not the oldest weaver in the guild, is the creator of the LOVE hanging. She's been in the guild since 1955 because it feeds her imagination. Tiny and soft-spoken, she's a former hot-air balloon maker and pilot, and she loves how guild members are always trying something new.

"It gives me inspiration," she says. "They're just a wonderful group. The members do amazing things now ... experimenting with dyeing and new techniques like taking threads out of a patch with acid."

While the 55 guild members are mostly women, and mostly older than 50, not all are veteran weavers. Jan Undern only took up weaving three years ago, and she joined the guild when she found it online. She's not in the library show, but finds it inspiring.

"I was blown away by that show," she says. "They don't talk about what they do much, but there are a lot of experts here. It's been a treat to get to know these ladies."

At the monthly meeting, things are settling down. For this holiday get-together, there's no speaker; instead there is a handmade gift exchange and sale that in itself inspires the weavers to learn new things. Members cross the floor, chatting excitedly and trying to guess who made the items on the Show-and-Tell table.

Learning, sharing and friendship are all good reasons why the Tacoma Weavers Guild has lasted 75 years – but exhibition organizer Marlis Hanson says the main one is the character of weaving itself, an art form that began thousands of years ago and continues to adapt through time.

"There are so many things that capture you, from simple to

very complex, so there are endless possibilities,” Hanson says. “It engages people on a lot of different levels.”

Says Undern: “There’s always so much to learn, it’ll keep me interested for the rest of my life.”

Rosemary Ponnekanti: 253-597-8568

rosemary.ponnekanti@thenewstribune.com

Tacoma Weaver’s Guild 75th anniversary exhibition

Where: Handforth Gallery, Tacoma Public Library main branch, 1102 Tacoma Ave. S., Tacoma

When: 9 a.m.-9 p.m. Mondays-Thursdays, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. Fridays-Saturdays through Dec. 31

Admission: free

Information: 253-591-5666, www.tacomapubliclibrary.org, www.tacomaweaversguild.org

Read more:

<http://www.thenewstribune.com/2010/12/19/1471189/weavers-guild-attains-more-than.html#ixzz18a67EUQ6>

Check out the GUILDS'S BLOG

If you like to surf the web from time to time, be sure to check out the guild’s blog at www.whatcomweavers.blogspot.com. Julie Barnes got this going about a year ago, and we’ve used it primarily to describe official guild happenings – programs at meetings and workshops. But is open to any guild members who want to post fiber-related cool stuff that would be of interest to other members. So your latest project, a small mini-

workshop or a gathering of the Daytime Weavers would all be great things to post and let everyone share in what's going on. Be sure to take some photos!

If you need help getting started, contact me or Julie (and I'm a novice, Julie's the pro).

While you're surfing, you might also have a look at the Spindrifter's blog at www.spindrifters1.blogspot.com, organized by the local spinners guild.

Thanks.

Sheri Ward, sheriward@clearwire.net.

*WWG BUSINESS:

DUES ARE DUE! Now that we have made the switch to a calendar year, your 2011 dues are payable in January. You can pay at the January meeting, or mail your check to WWG, P.O. Box 403, Bellingham 98227. Dues are still \$20 per year, \$15 for students, and \$30 for a family membership.

The Guild is now on a calendar year (January-December) schedule for dues. We will collect dues for 2011 in January.

Whatcom Weaver's Guild

Annual Membership Dues:

Adult: \$20-- , Student: \$15.--, Family: \$30--

Make checks payable to Whatcom Weaver's Guild, mail to Whatcom Weaver's Guild, P.O. Box 403, Bellingham, WA 98227

2010/2011 BOARD

President: Donna Hunter
Past President: Pat Fisher
Vice President and Programs: Sheri Ward, Julie Barnes
assisting
Secretary: Cathy Thompson
Treasurer: Barbara Young
Workshops: Toby Smith, Donna Hunter. We would like a
third person to be on the team.
Membership/Hospitality: Toni Wade, Carol Henry
Library: Emileigh Kinnear
Member- at- Large: Gloria Lebowitz
Newsletter: Tracy Vandermay
Education: Joyce Noordmans
Wool Show: Marcia Ford
Fibers and Beyond Chair: Mary Oates
Webmaster: Maggie Weyers

Newsletter Editor- Tracy Vandermay
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Sent from my iPad