

Whatcom Weavers Guild Newsletter



Celebrating 40 years!

December Newsletter

November was a great month for outreach and learning opportunities for our Guild. November 17th was a very successful combined Fiber Arts show with the Whatcom Museum—see reports on page 7. Earlier in the month, all those delightful mug rugs and mugs which came from so many of our members found their home at the Bellingham YWCA—see the report on page 3. It was also the month for workshops and presentations by one of our founding members, Pat Sparks, again in cooperation with the Whatcom Museum. I had a great time, along with 7 other Guild members, at her Felted Scarf workshop. Now I'm armed and dangerous, and ready to learn more, hopefully from our felting diva, Donna Hunter. Thanks for great workshop organization Judy! I am really looking forward to more opportunities in early 2012. Check them out on page 4, and sign up soon.

Other good things in this newsletter:

*a book review by Librarian Megan Kinman.

*a very interesting article on Vincent van Gogh and his interest in weaving and weavers

*an opportunity to join a study group (page 6).

And of course our usual monthly reports and reminders and classifieds. Let me know if you have any news and updates for the membership, or ideas for additions to the newsletter. And look for lots of photos from our November 19th Fiber Arts at the Lightcatcher Show.

Happy Holiday season, have fun making all the good stuff for gifts, and don't forget Daytime Weavers December 1st and the monthly meeting on December 14th.

Pat Fisher, Newsletter Editor (pat.fisher@comcast.net)

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Programs for 2011-2012

Dec. 14: Ron Snyder - Making traditional brooms.
Jan. 11: Teresa Van Haalen on her recent fiber tour to Southeast Asia
Feb. 8: Donna Hunter and Marilyn Olsen on hats: felted, knitted and ceramic
March 14: Linda Kubik - sewing with handwovens
April 11: Teresa Ruch on achieving great color and drape for wearables
May 9: Partner projects
June 13: Stash sale

Meetings held at St James Church (lower level)
910, 14th St., Bellingham.
6.30pm Social time
7.00pm Meeting start time
9.00pm Adjournment





December Program—Traditional Broom Making by Sheri Ward, WWG VP, Programs

Ron Snyder will demonstrate traditional broom making at our December meeting. He has been making historically accurate primitive American brooms for over 25 years. He learned his styles from old master broom squires throughout the South, and he formerly owned a Shaker broom factory in Michigan for many years.

Ron will demonstrate broom making (which involves quite a bit of weaving) while telling the history of brooms in America, and how the craft has evolved over the past two centuries. With the use of a resisting wheel, he will make both a basic sweeping broom for the hearth and porch, as well as a cobweb broom that is guaranteed to remove your webs with just a spin of the broom. Handmade brooms are not only functional, they make wonderful gifts for the holiday season. There will be a variety of brooms for sale after the presentation, and what better way to start the new year than with a "clean sweep".

For the balance of the program year, we have some more programs on wearables and a smattering of other topics.

Jan. 11: Teresa Van Haalen on her recent fiber tour to Southeast Asia

Feb. 8: Donna Hunter and Marilyn Olsen on hats: felted, knitted and ceramic

March 14: Linda Kubik on how to sew with handwovens

April 11: Teresa Ruch on achieving great color and drape for wearables

May 9: Partner projects

WWG Board Meeting Summary by Karen Perry, WWG President

Meeting date: November 17, 2011

Discussions

The board discussed last minute details regarding the sale at the Light-catcher.

A proposal was made to prepare a packet for new members, consisting of WWG constitution, policies, information brochure and a welcome card. This would be given to each new member. Jenni Jimmerson volunteered for this task and Karen Perry will create the welcome cards.

The major discussion involved the Guild budget, prepared by Barbara Young. The figures showed that we are dipping into our reserve. To prevent that in the future, an increase in dues was proposed plus a partial shift of the storage locker expense to Fibers and Beyond. It was proposed that the Fibers and Beyond expense be offset by an increase in the Guild percentage on sales at Fibers and Beyond.

Vote

The Board voted unanimously to increase the dues \$5 (individual \$25, family \$35, student \$20) and to increase the WWG percentage of Fibers and Beyond sales to 20%.





Daytime Weavers by Kathy Sano, DSano@aol.com, 738-7085

The Daytime weaving group will meet at the Roeder Home on December 1 at 10:30. We will be making Christmas "inchies"--ornaments and/or magnets. For this fun project, please bring: scissors, glue, small pieces of Christmas fabric or paper, small bells, beads or other items to embellish your inchie. I will have other items we will need. Please also bring your lunch and show and tell. Hope to see you there.

YWCA mugs and mug-rugs—report by Sheri Ward

In early November, the staff at the YWCA gratefully received the lovely mug-rugs guild members created this past summer. Guild members also donated matching mugs, which we filled with teas, coffee and cocoa mixes, and wrapped as gifts. All told, the guild donated 36 mugs and mug-rugs, one for each of the residents of the Y.

The Y provides transitional housing to women, many of whom have been through some difficult times with family situations and substance abuse. The Y provides a structure and program for women to get back on their feet and become independent. Our small gifts help lift their spirits and show community support for the residents.

This is the third year our guild has made this kind of gift, and we value our on-going relationship with the Y and their residents. We discussed some possible weaving and/or beading classes in the spring, yet to be determined, and a possible visit by a Y staff member to one of the guild's meetings.



2013 ANWG Conference by Jenni Jimmerson, WWG Member at Large

What is ANWG? Association of Northwest Weavers' Guilds, of which WWG is a member. Member guilds cover the states of Wyoming, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington and Alaska, the Canadian provinces of BC, Alberta, Saskatchewan and the Yukon Territory. The ANWG biannual conference is held in a different location throughout the Northwest every time. Since 1989, the locations have been:

- | | | |
|------------------------|---------------------|------------------|
| 1989 - Boise, ID. | 1991—Eugene, OR. | 1993—Seattle, WA |
| 1995—Prince George, BC | 1997—Victoria, BC | 1999—Bozeman, MT |
| 2001—Eugene, OR. | 2003—Pendleton, OR. | 2005—Tacoma, WA. |
| 2007—Red Deer, AB. | 2009—Spokane, WA. | 2010—Salem, OR. |

2013? It will be in BELLINGHAM, WA! PLEASE PLAN TO COME AND MAKE IT A GREAT CONFERENCE.

We are in the planning stages now and will have more continued news next month.





Workshops by Judy Blount, Workshop Coordinator

Our next wonderful inkle weave/inlay techniques workshop is coming up in February. Sign-ups are still being accepted. To secure a place in it, please bring your \$25 deposit to the December Guild meeting, or send it to: WWG, P.O. Box 403, Bellingham, WA 98227. Please include a notation directing it to the Robyn Spady Workshop. If you have any questions, please contact Judy Blount or Joan Dudley.

Inkle Weave Trim Techniques/Inlay Techniques and Beyond -- Saturday, February 4, 2012

Instructor: Robyn Spady -- <http://www.spadvstudios.com/>

Although our workshop focus this year is on wearables, techniques learned in this class can be used for any number of projects. Inkle looms will be available for those participants who do not currently own one. Robyn tells us: "This will be a 1/2 day inkle weaving hands-on workshop, with an emphasis on trim techniques, combined with a 1/2 day class on 'inlay techniques and beyond' as a way of embellishing fabric as it's woven. These two informative workshops will be followed by a short jewelry class to learn techniques for use with yarns and fabric to make jewelry to coordinate with the 'fabulous garments they are going to make'."

WECU Holly Education Center will be the venue for this all-day workshop, 9am to 5pm.

Approximate cost: \$55/10 participants; \$35/15 participants; plus \$9.00 supply fee (\$4 inkle weave section; \$5 inlay section) to be paid directly to Robyn.

Title: One pattern/many Variations Using Handwoven Fabric—Thursday and Friday, March 15/16th 2012.

Instructor—Linda Kubik— <http://www.lindakubik.com/>

Linda says: "Is there ever a 'perfect' pattern?" What if you don't have enough fabric or need to add a piece? How about changing the collar, adding pockets? Using Linda's Elements 008 pattern, http://www.lindakubick.com/pb/wp_637e757e/wp_637e757e.html, we'll explore fit, fashion, individual style and customizing a pattern. Bring your handwoven fabric and frustrations and learn how to think creatively as a sewer. Three yards of at least 36 inch width handwoven fabric is required for this class. An additional one yard of coordinating fabric for trim and binding is needed, but something from Robyn's class might be appropriate. Participants must provide their own sewing machines.

Squalicum Harbor Clubhouse will be our venue for this two day workshop, 9am to 4pm.

Approximate cost: \$120/12 participants; \$125/10 participants; \$240/6 participants plus \$25 lab fee to be paid by each participant to Linda.

Title: Vested Interest/Embellishing the Surface—Saturday/Sunday May 5/6, 2012.

Instructor: Anita Luvera Mayer.

This 2-day workshop will present an overview of how to transform one generic vest pattern into a wide variety of designs. The lecture/demonstration will cover such topics as weaving with sewing thread, recycling shoelaces, lining methods, making vests reversible, modular knitting and more. Everyone will receive a basic vest pattern, learn how to size it and will have the opportunity to try on a variety of vest styles with patterns available to copy. Inspiration will be provided through books, ethnic examples and the instructor's personal collection of vests. It includes a hands-on exploration of simple yet dramatic ways to individualize clothing and accessories using mirrors, creative stitchery, innovative beading, couching and wrapped rings. Each participant will begin a reference notebook of samples and be on the way to creating a wearable work of art.

WECU will be the venue for this two-day workshop, 9am to 4pm.

Approximate cost: \$90/10 participants; \$75/12 participants; plus \$20 lab fee to be paid by each participants to Anita.





Library Corner by Megan Kinman, WWG Librarian. megdolphin@yahoo.com

Library News

Our library has a wonderful selection of books about weaving. We have some basic books and we have advanced books about different forms and styles of weaving. From four shaft and rigid heddle looms to the daunting 24 shaft floor looms and those that take a computer to figure out the patterns that are possible.

I also want to let people know that we also have videos, monographs, periodicals, design collections, samples and some items that can be checked out. That is to say not rented. We do have an inkle loom that can be checked out and a book about inkle weaving!

That being said there are books out there that I know we all would like to have access to at some time. I know that we have a vibrant knitting group. However we only have 2 knitting books! For those of you experienced knitters, send me your favorite book title. If there is more than one book by an author that you've found useful or just loved let me know who that author is. The same goes for Basketry, Rugs and Tapestry.

Now I don't want to leave out anything so any fiber arts book, periodical, film, or document is welcome. As a bibliophile I love to see a full shelf and we have a few sections that could have more in them.

And as always if you have questions about the Rasmussen loom or the Baby Wolf floor loom rentals just send me an email and I will get back to you. Also if you want access to the library between meetings I will do my best to get you in.

The Book Corner By Megan Kinman

The Handwoven's Design Collection

We have nine of the design collections that Handwoven has put out. I have used one of these design collections in the past with great success. The collections have a set of patterns in them (we ask that you trace the pattern to a piece of paper and cut that out not the pattern in the box) that work very well and can be adapted if you know what you are doing. Not being that experienced a seamstress, I stick to the pattern. I used the outerwear box to make a ruana coat for myself. The box has an instruction book that tells you how much woven material is needed for the pattern and shows where the fabric bias should be. It is very useful for a beginner and some of the patterns are just beautiful. The box normally has several patterns in it different styles. The Outerwear box has 8 patterns for 8 styles of coats. If you are looking for a simple pattern or something that you just don't want much of a fuss over, I recommend looking at the Handwoven design collections. Just remember not to cut out the patterns themselves. Trace them onto paper and cut that out. That way the next person who borrows them can use them also.





[Vincent and the Loom](#)

via [Beweave It by Christina Garton on 11/15/11](#)

Submitted by Maggie Weyers, WWG Webmaster

Few would argue that [Vincent van Gogh was one of the most influential artists in history. From Starry Night to still life paintings of sunflowers, many of his paintings are considered masterpieces.](#)

Lesser known are his [paintings and drawings of weaving](#) For about a six month period in 1884, van Gogh [focused his artistic endeavors on weavers at their work. Van Gogh admired weavers for their determination and skill, saying in 1883, "A weaver who has to direct and to interweave a great many little threads has no time to philosophize about it, but rather he is so absorbed in his work that he doesn't think but acts, and he feels how things must go more than he can explain it."](#)

Of course, as much as he admired their work, he was also greatly drawn to the aesthetics of weaving. In a letter to his brother Theo, van Gogh talks about these works saying, "Those looms will cost me a lot of hard work yet, but in reality they are such splendid things, all that old oakwork against a greyish wall, that I certainly believe it is a good thing that they are painted once in a while." He then went on to describe a weaver working by lamp as having 'Rembrandtesque effects'.

While these works, around 13 in total, make up a relatively small portion of the nearly 2,000 pieces of art he created, they help teach us a little more about the man, van Gogh, and what inspired him.

[Handwoven Clothing Study Group](#)

Study groups are one of the greatest benefits of a fiber arts guild.

Are you interested in starting a study group on Handwoven Clothing? Please contact one of us if you have an interest—any interest!

Jenni Jimmerson—jennij@secfirst.com, 398-8637

Kathy Hutchinson—kathyhutch1@comcast.net, 392-0549





Lightcatcher show and sale—reports by Sheri Ward and Joyce Noordmans

We had a wonderful time at the Lightcatcher show and sale on November 19. The event was focused more on demonstrations and children's activities than our traditional Fibers and Beyond, but we did sell over \$2300. Not bad for a four-hour event. Set-up and tear-down went very smoothly, thanks to great participation and cooperation by guild members.

Children had an excellent time in the upstairs studio, trying their hands at felting and weaving. On the main floor, a number of guild members demonstrated a variety of techniques: weaving, needle felting, inkle weaving, and spinning. We got a lot of questions from both adults and children, and raised awareness about our guild specifically and fiber arts in general in the larger community. The museum staff and guild members who participated felt their respective organizations had benefited and reached people outside their usual spheres. Special thanks go to Jane Coombs and Yvonne Madsen for their leadership in putting this event together. Sheri Ward.

I felt a great enthusiasm Saturday November 19 at the Lightcatcher show and sale.

It was sparked by our participating members who so capably organized and displayed the work brought in and took the time to demonstrate and answer many questions from the public. People seemed to arrive with anticipation and WWG members responded with graciousness and much information.

We all felt that were we involved in a worthwhile educational experience with some sales also to benefit WWG and the participating members and the Fibers and Beyond budget.

THANK YOU! Karen Perry, Yvonne Madsen, Sheri Ward, Pat Fisher, Barbara Young, Jane Coombs Jenni Jimmerson, Cathy Thompson, Donna Hunter and so many more!

What an orchestrated and smooth effort!

Joyce Noordmans



Wool Show—Wool Show—Wool Show—Wool Show! YOUR GUILD NEEDS YOU!

The Guild and the weaving/spinning community receives much kudos and great publicity at the annual Lynden Fair in August every year. It's another way we spread the word about our Guild and fiber arts. This has been due mainly to great supervision of the Wool Show by Marcia Ford. Thank you Marcia! After many years, Marcia has decided 2012 is her last year to lead these efforts for the Guild, so we are looking for one or more members to take over from her. This could be a great year to learn more and take over the reins in 2013. Can you help? Contact Marcia at samijo47@q.com.





Classifieds

For Sale

Leclerc Nilus counterbalance 4-shaft floor loom. 30 inch weaving width. 6 pedals, wire heddles, 12-dent reed. Excellent condition. \$100.

Call Peggy Bridgman at (360) 766-6690. Email: bridgman_no_e@yahoo.com

Christmas Show opportunity

Northwest Spectacular Events (www.nwspectacularevents.com) is looking for vendors to participate in a Christmas Gift Show on Saturday December 3, 10am to 8pm. The show will be at The Ferndale Events Center, 5715 Barrett Road, Ferndale, WA, 98248.

All profits are for the vendor to take home.

If you are interested in participating as a vendor/exhibitor and would like to apply for the Christmas Gift Show, or get additional information on booth availability and prices, email to NorthwestSpectacularEvents@gmail.com, including the following information:

- Personal Name
- Business Name
- E-mail address
- Website (if applicable)

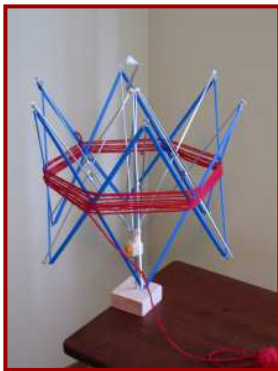
Type of merchandise or products you provide

Event Coordinators: Gino and Yara Barrera, phone 360 527 3325.

FOR SALE: A 1980 style (does not flip) 25" Schacht Rigid Heddle loom with trestle stand, 8,10 & 12 inch dent reeds, 5 apron bars, 5 stick shuttles (two each 24" and 16 " and one 9") and 2 petite pickup sticks, 12" & 16". All are in excellent condition. This package would cost over \$500 if new. I want the loom to have a good home and will sell all for \$100.

I also have a Schacht hand bobbin winder (needs a belt) for \$35 and a light duty umbrella swift for \$25. Both are like new.

Contact Barbara at 733-7549 or bscheaffer@msn.com





Classified (cont.)

8-Harness Loom for Sale

Maple hardwood construction. Weaving width 40 inches, floor loom. Comes with two reeds, many books and miscellaneous shuttles.

Excellent condition. Asking \$875.

Contact Janet Burke at 360 371-2492.

Interesting websites and links.

- Handweaving.net (zillions of drafts!). <http://www.headweaving.net/Home.aspx>
- Syne Mitchell's WeaveZine. <http://weavezine.com/>
- Complex Weavers. <http://www.complex-weavers.org/>
- Weave Tech. <http://groups.yahoo.com/group/WeaveTech/>
- HGA (Handweavers Guild of America). <http://www.weavespindye.org/>

Do you have a favorite you would like to share with your fellow members?

Send it to me—Pat Fisher, Newsletter. Contact: pat.fisher@comcast.net

Happy clicking!

Upcoming Calendar Dates To Remember!

December 1	Daytime Weavers, 10.30.a.m., Roeder Home
December 14	WWG December meeting
January 5	Daytime Weavers, 10.30.a.m., Roeder Home
January 11	WWG January meeting
February 4	Robyn Spady Inkle Weave workshop
March 15/16	Linda Kubik—One pattern/many variations workshop
May 5/6	Anita Mayer Luvera Embellishment workshop



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