

- o March
- o 2008

- o Next Meeting
- o Mar. 12, 2008

- o 07-08 Theme ~
- o Reaching Out

# whatcom Weavers guild

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

## REGULAR MEETINGS ~

September through June ~ Second Wednesday of the month  
7:00p social time ~ short business meeting  
show & tell ~ scheduled program

St. James Presbyterian Church (west side, lower level)  
910 - 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Bellingham, WA

## THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM

### *Chris Conrad presents Kakishibu*

Chris Conrad spent 1 1/2 years in Japan studying kakishibu. Used in Japan since before the 9th century, it is little known in the western world. Originally used primarily on wood and paper, kakishibu is coming into its own in the world of textile art. Requiring no heat or mordants, it is "dye friendly" while providing dynamic design potential.

Chris will have samples of kakishibu works as well as a slide presentation profiling Japanese artists and kakishibu production. Visit her website at [www.kakishibui.com](http://www.kakishibui.com).



*Kakishibu dyed scarves, September 2007.*

*Close up of dyed scarves.*



## WWG Library's New Additions ~

*Color and Dyeing*, Shuttle Craft Monograph 16, Harriet Tidball  
*Weaving Inkle Bands*, Shuttle Craft Monograph 27, Harriet Tidball  
*Handwoven Rugs*, Shuttle Craft Monograph 29, Mary Meigs Atwater  
*Extended Divided Twill Weaves*, Shuttle Craft Guild Monograph 29, Virginia I. Harvey  
*Bateman Blend Weaves*, Shuttle Craft Guild Monograph 36, William G. Bateman  
*Inkle Weaving* [Paperback], Helene Bress  
*Structure of Weaving*, by Ann Sutton  
*Temari How to Make Japanese Thread Balls*, Diana Vandervoort [Donated by Linda Dinus]



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## Dates & Details ~

### The Daytime Weavers:

Thursday, Mar. 6<sup>th</sup>, 10:30a

Hostess: Sondra Rose

~ The Daytime Weavers  
meets year round on the first  
Thursday of every month.

### Annual Membership Dues:

Adult: \$20.00

Family: \$30.00

Student: \$15.00

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## President's Notes ~ Pat Fisher

A great benefit of belonging to our Guild is finding so much knowledge and willingness to share, amongst our members. Last month I talked about my new venture into naalbinding - at Show and Tell at our February meeting, I proudly showed some of my wobbly naalbinded (bound? binden?) pieces. Several of our members shared with me their more advanced knowledge of the craft, which I have found incredibly useful in getting better and learning more. Thank you!

Our year is moving on. Chris Conrad is presenting at our March 12<sup>th</sup> meeting, on the ancient Japanese kakishibu dyeing process. Her recently published a book on the art will be available for anyone interested in learning more.

More about the year moving on, we are looking for members to join the Board for the year starting in July. Although most of the Board are willing to continue into next year, we do have some vacancies in the appointed coordinators positions. We are looking for a new Education coordinator (currently held by Margaret Magic) and have set up two new positions to support the workshop and program chairs. Ideal 'starter' spots for anyone interested in learning more about the Board, the activities will be to help set up workshops and/or programs with the workshop and program chairs. One of these positions has already been filled, but one is still available. To ensure continuity, we have made a policy change so that programs and workshops can be set up more than a year in advance - the new support positions will help this happen.

And by the way, if you would like to be nominated for any position, those currently serving will happily step aside and help you take on the job or have you work with them! There is much in the hopper for next year's programs, workshops, library and education plans, continuation of the strategic plans established this year, and the more we have helping, the better. It's your Guild!

Interested? Call or email your friend on the Board, or email me at [pat.fisher@comcast.net](mailto:pat.fisher@comcast.net).

Thank you to Julie Barnes for taking on the Secretary's position for the balance of this year, and to Randi Cattarin for co-chairing the Fibers & Beyond Show with me for 2008. Your willingness is much appreciated.

Since I am away for the March meeting. VP Nancy Bjerke will lead the meeting - thank you Nancy! I will be in Hawaii and am looking forward to finding more new and unusual fiber-related arts. Last trip I found the colorful and beautiful wire basket weaving from Africa - who knows what I'll find for April Show and Tell?

Enjoy the spring, and getting on with your teaming projects - what I've heard so far sounds really exciting.

# Weaving in Bengal ~

*Toby Smith*

Recently I have been in India on a textile tour offered by Maiwa Handprints [[www.maiwa.com](http://www.maiwa.com)] at Granville Island in Vancouver.

Charllotte Kwon, owner of Maiwa, took about 18 people to visit many of the villages and artisans (embroiderers, dyers, block printers, weavers, designers) that Maiwa has worked with for over twenty years. Of particular interest to weavers is a fertile partnership between two artists/weave designers [[www.bailou.net](http://www.bailou.net)] and a group of weaving villages in Bengal. After visiting the designers' studio and seeing the beautiful and wide ranging saris, scarves, and yardage, we were very interested to visit the weavers.

Weaving has a very long history in this area. It took several hours of near-death experiences on Indian roads to reach the villages. As we walked along idyllic village paths in this fertile, tropical area, we could hear that unmistakable clicky-clack, clicky-clack of hand looms. We wandered into simple buildings and saw men weaving at pit looms made of bamboo and bits of wood.

The looms are sari width. Weaving is done on pit looms dug out of raised earth, so that the pits don't fill with rain. One piece of cloth was double weave. Rows of little pockets were being woven across the width of the fabric. The weaver would weave the pockets, place sequins in the pockets by hand, then continue weaving, closing the pocket...[the cloth] was so fine that you could read through two layers together. They coat the thin cotton yarns with starch made from boiling rice in order to strengthen the finest yarns. When the fabric comes off the loom it is very stiff. This goes away after washing.

In another weaving village in the same area we saw people using very old jacquard looms. They seemed incongruous with the pit weaving and simple life of the village. But truly spectacular and unique weaving comes from these looms.



*Jacquard loom in Bengal.*

It was very gratifying to see such a successful and non-exploitative partnership between city designers and village artisans. Of particular interest to me was how village weaving in this area is integrated into a complex local economy. The villagers also grow rice, bananas, coconuts, and vegetables. Some also fish. In this way, they are not desperate and do not work under sweatshop conditions. Weaving is one aspect of a family/village income and it fits into the rhythm of their daily lives. All the weavers we saw were men. The women did much of the preparation, such as coating the fibres, winding the warps, and loading the bobbins. I noticed children coming home from school. Weaving, in this area, allows people to stay home in their villages, where their history and families are. They have control over their lives and live with dignity and some level of security.



*Bengal weaver in pit loom.*

## continued ~ Toby Smith

In much of India, there is no way to make a living in the villages any more. People are driven to the big cities where they struggle to survive on the filthy edges of despair described so unflinchingly in Rohinton Mistry's "A Fine Balance". Mumbai (Bombay) now has more people living in makeshift slums than it does in the official city. So it was great to see those folks in the village. There have even been cases where young people have returned from the city back to the village.

With the help of Bappa and Rumi, the two committed, ethical designers from the city who develop new designs and markets, and fair traders such as Maiwa, the villagers continue to improve their quality and increase their weaving output.



Spinning in India.



Weaver at the loom in India.



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# The Learning Curve

*The Learning Curve* is a new program created to provide an opportunity for guild members to share their expertise with other members. These mini workshops are given by guild members for guild members.

## ***Kumihimo Workshop***

Cost: \$35.00

When: Saturday, April 26, 2008

Instructors: Linda Dinus and Katherine Kinnear

Contact: Linda (dinus@verizon.net) or Katherine (kkinneer@aol.com)

Place: Registrants will be called about materials, location and time as the workshop date nears.

Description: Learn Kumihimo using simple equipment. You will complete a necklace featuring your cord and one-of-a-kind lampworked beads which will also be demonstrated at Katherine's studio.

## ***Basket Workshop***

When: Saturday, May 3, 2008

Instructors: Mary Oates and Linda Dinus

This workshop is full. A waiting list has been created. Call Mary (360-671-9229) or Linda (360-966-4027) if you have questions.

Contact Guild workshop co-chairs, Karen Perry (360-724-4812) and Barbara Snow (360-676-4379) to brainstorm ideas

## Workshops & Exhibits ~

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### Skagit Valley Weavers Guild ~

March 10, 2008, 6:30 pm

Allen Methodist Church, 16775 Allen W Rd., Bow, WA  
Syne Mitchell will speak to the SVWG during their March meeting. Syne has a monthly podcast talk-radio show about weaving. Check it out at [www.weavecast.com](http://www.weavecast.com)

### Best of the Northwest Spring Show ~

March 14-16, Qwest Field & Event Center, Seattle  
[www.nwcraftsalliance.com](http://www.nwcraftsalliance.com)

### Northwest Basket Weavers Spring Retreat ~

March 26-30, Port Orchard, WA on the Kitsap Peninsula. [www.northwestbasketweavers.org](http://www.northwestbasketweavers.org)

### Convergence 2008, Textures in the Tropics ~

June 22 - June 24, 2008, Tampa Bay, Florida  
[www.weavespindye.org](http://www.weavespindye.org)

### Northwest Regional Spinners Association ~

June 5-8, 2008, Willamette University, Salem, OR  
Annual conference information, [www.nwrsa.org](http://www.nwrsa.org)

### ANWG 2009 Weaving Waves of Color ~

May 28-31 2009, Gonzaga University, Spokane, WA  
Post Conference Workshops: June 1-3, 2009

## 37<sup>th</sup> Annual Whidbey Weavers Guild Spin-In ~

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### Featured Spinner *Judith MacKenzie McCuin*

Saturday and Sunday April 5 & 6, 2008, 10am to 4pm  
Oak Harbor High School, 950 NW 2<sup>nd</sup> Ave, Oak Harbor, WA  
Donation \$15 one day/\$25 both days - Fiber packet included

Saturday Lecture: Bison - From the "Plain" to the Exotic  
Sunday Workshop: Three Wild Fibers - Yak, Bison and Cashmere  
Workshop supplies: 3 bobbins and a small niddy nody

#### Program for Saturday, April 5th

- 10am: Registration, time for spinning, visiting, shopping, voting
- 11am-1pm: General public welcome for vendor shopping.
- 1pm: Judith will discuss Bison - From the "Plain" to the Exotic
- 4pm: Spin-In closes for the day

#### Program for Sunday, April 6th

- 10am: Registration for newcomers
- 10:30am: Judith's workshop will teach us the techniques for spinning Yak, Bison and Cashmere. Sample packets of these fibers will be provided plus a pattern for a scarf from the spun fibers.
- Noon: Lunch - Bring a sandwich. Drinks/snacks are provided.
- 1pm: Workshop continues
- 4pm: Spin-In Closes

For more information visit [www.whidbeyweaversguild.org](http://www.whidbeyweaversguild.org)

# Notices & Classified Ads ~

For Sale ~ ***The Great Purge!*** Continuing to eliminate duplicate items stored in every nook and cranny of the house.

- Glimakra "Pysslingen" 24", 4-shaft table loom with detachable legs, texsolv heddles, 1 reed (this is Glimakra's first table loom), \$375
- Structo Artcraft Loom, 20", 4-shaft loom, flat steel heddles, 1 reed, \$135
- Ashford Hand Cards, fine cloth, near-new condition, \$40
- Kromski Niddy Noddy, large size, mahogany finish, \$15

Contact Julie Barnes, JAHBarnes@msn.com or 360-380-9203.

**Glimakra Floor Loom for Sale** ~ 60 inch wide weaving width, 8 harness, countermarche, double back beams, built in bench, brake gears and handles on both sides of loom, texsolv tie up and heddles, and an opphamata attachment still in box. I have 2 of these and one must go due to space problems. \$3200.00 - must take delivery, not willing to ship. Call Maggie at 360-380-0888.

**Large Floor Loom for Sale** ~ 4 harness, 6 treadle countermarche loom, overhead beater, bench with shelf, warping reel, weaving books. Take all for \$500 obo. Located in Normandy Park (Seattle, WA address). Call 206-243-6195.

If you want to add weight to your loom beater, a metal bar can be made to order by Mt Baker Student Industries. The cost would be about \$15.00. Please contact Linda Dinus, [dinus@verizon.net](mailto:dinus@verizon.net).

**WWG Board Meeting Schedule** ~ The monthly WWG board meetings are typically held on the last Wednesday of each month from 7-9p at NW Handspun Yarns, 1401 Commercial St., Bellingham. All members are welcome to attend these meetings. 2007-2008 schedule - Mar. 26, Apr. 30, May 28, & Jun. 25.



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