

May 2009

Whatcom Weaver's Guild

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

Next Meeting:

May 13th-No 'show & tell' this month

*ANNUAL STASH SALE

Call Debbie or Belinda Day -(360) 966-7545-with any questions

Extra people for set-up & take down of this event would be super helpful!

*Vote on proposed Board Members for 2009/2010

Regular Meetings:

September through June, 2nd Wednesday of the month

7:00pm- Social time-Short business meeting

Show & Tell-Scheduled program

St. James Presbyterian Church (Westside, lower level)

910-14th Street, Bellingham, WA

Dates & Details

Whatcom Weaver's Guild

Annual Membership Dues:

Adult: \$20.00

Family: \$30.00

Student: \$15.00

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

WWG Board Meetings:

The board meeting schedule will be announced once it is confirmed. Please contact any board member if you should have concerns to be discussed or want to confirm dates/times of meetings.

Next Board Meeting:

June 3rd, 6:30 p.m.

Clubhouse @ Darby Estates

Newsletter Editor-Tracy Vandermay

Contact information: (360) 927-1459

e-mail: [HYPERLINK "mailto:TracyLeeArt@gmail.com" TracyLeeArt@gmail.com](mailto:TracyLeeArt@gmail.com)

whatcomweaversguild.org

The Daytime Weavers:

Thursday, May 7th, 10:30 a.m.

Hostess: Anne Lorgen

360-724-6344

1361 Shaw Rd., Bellingham

Call for directions

-The daytime weavers meet year-round on the 1st Thursday of every month. Bring a sack lunch, show & tell, something to work on (or not), and get a chance to meet weavers, knitters, crafters, etc.

BOARD INFORMATION 2008/2009

President-Board

Vice President & Programs: Nancy Bjerke

Secretary: Richard Harvey

Treasurer: Kathy Hutchinson

Workshops: Barbara Snow & Karen Perry

Membership: Randi Cattarin

Librarian: Kaea Morris

Member-at-Large/ANWG Rep: Gloria Lebowitz

Newsletter: Joan Cunningham

Education: Marcia Ford

Wool Show: Marcia Ford

Fibers & Beyond Chair: Pat Fisher & Randi Cattarin

PROPOSED 2009-10 BOARD

President: Donna Hunter

Vice President & Programs: Julie Barnes

Secretary: Cathy Thompson

Treasurer: Barbara Young

Workshops: Toby Smith

Newsletter: Tracy Vandermay

Education: Betsy Turner

Librarian: Sheri Ward

Hospitality/Membership: Toni Wade & Louise Bayma

Member-at-Large: Gloria Lebowitz

Wool Show: Marcia Ford

Fibers & Beyond Chair: Joan Cunningham

***** Entry for the Fibers & Beyond sale must be made by June 30. Teresa VanHaalen will be accepting entries or they can be sent to the guild's PO.*****

A huge thank you to the nominating committee:

Loretta Hogg

Linda Dinus

Mary Oates

Newsletter Editor-Tracy Vandermay

Contact information: (360) 927-1459

e-mail: HYPERLINK "mailto:TracyLeeArt@gmail.com" TracyLeeArt@gmail.com

WORKSHOPS

I'm Toby Smith, the new workshop coordinator. I passed around a paper last meeting asking people what workshops they would like to see. One of the items of interest was card weaving and I'm wondering if there is someone within our guild who knows about this and might be willing to give us a one-day workshop on it. I am also wondering if the larger workshops with the big names turn out to be too expensive, if we might want to put together our own. There is a lot of interest in Robyn Spady's Fab Four workshop that looks at a number of structures that can be woven on four shafts. Given she is very booked and we may not be able to get her (or afford her) maybe a group of people could each take one interesting new structure, research it, and develop a warp for their table loom long enough for the number of people in the group. If everyone in the group did this and we worked it in the usual round robin way, we can learn some new things. We would share the cost of materials and room rental. It could go two or three days in the usual way, but we would teach each other. Let me know if you are interested in this type of thing. tobyMsmith@hotmail.com. Meanwhile, do you know how to card weave?

THE LEARNING CURVE

The Learning Curve is a 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.

We will continue with The Learning Curve workshops again this year. If you have a skill that you would like to share with fellow guild members, here is your chance to do so. Last year's Learning Curve workshops were well received and we have heard lots of raves about the experiences had by our members.

Here's how it works....

Decide on a skill that you would like to share with the guild...as an example....Beading on Leather. Decide how many people can comfortably fit in your workspace and then decide how much you would like to have participants pay. So, if you have 6 participants at \$10 a piece....for a 3 hour workshop....you will receive \$60 for your efforts and 6 people will have learned a new skill! It is a great way to get to know fellow Guild members and have fun besides.

Announce your workshop at the Guild meeting or in the newsletter giving all of the particulars that the members need to know. You are in charge! I am anxious to see what fun things our members think of this year.

Contact Guild workshop co-chairs, Karen Perry (360-724-4812) and Barbara Snow (360-676-4379) to brainstorm ideas about a workshop you could teach.

Events & Classes

Springfest Mother's Day Art Studio Tour in Blaine May 9& 10

Donna Hunter and a juried group of artists in and around Blaine are hosting a tour of their studios May 9 & 10 from 10-5pm each day. A variety of arts and crafts are represented including painting, wood sculpture, driftwood furniture, handmade brooms, felt art and wearables, jewelry, and alpacas and alpaca fiber products.

This is a cooperative venture sponsored by the Sweet Road Artisans Alliance and the City of Blaine. A map to the 7 locations are available at many stores in Blaine, the Blaine Visitor Center, on the websites HYPERLINK "http://www.ci.blaine.wa.us,www.madeinblaine.com" www.ci.blaine.wa.us,www.madeinblaine.com, or by calling 332-8082.

ANWG Update

For anyone going over to Spokane to ANWG but not signed up for the conference: The Vendor Hall and Guild Booth areas will be open free to the public Friday and Saturday 9:00-5:00 and 6:00 to 9:00, and Sunday 9:00 to 4:00. We are updating this information to be put on the first page of the website. We want everyone to come and have a great time!

Art by the Lake

Whatcom Art Guild's Judged Art Show& Sale

May 22 - 25

Bloedel Donovan Park Multipurpose Center
2214 Elecectric Avenue, Bellingham, WA

Featuring

Fine Art & Unique Crafts by over 40 popular local artists—oil, watercolor, acrylic, pastel, collage, photography, 3D, jewelry, textiles & crafts

Spring Plant Sale by Cedargrove Nursery

Guest Artists Whatcom Weaver's Guild

Art Raffle

Hours

Friday, May 22 6 pm - 8 pm

Saturday, May 23 9 am - 8 pm

Sunday & Monday, May 24-25 9 am - 6 pm

Free admission, parking, refreshments, music

For information call Dixie at 360-398-1411

Whatcom Art Guild HYPERLINK "http://www.whatcomartguild.org" www.whatcomartguild.org

Weaving Wonders

Surrey Museum April 14-May 23, 2009

Wonderful exhibit-eclectic-colourful-beautiful and full of texture

If your guild would like to come as a group to view the exhibit, please call ahead to the Museum to let them know you are coming so we can be sure to have enough staff on hand. Group rates are available for a group of 10 or more people: Adult group admission is \$3.50/person; Seniors group admission is \$2.60/person. Tea and tours are also available on Wednesdays and Thursdays, 2:30-4:30pm. Fee is adults \$6.50, seniors \$5.25.

Explore the wonders of woven textiles in many forms, from clothing and house wares, to crafts and fine art. This exhibit will highlight the craft and artistry of local weaving guilds, as well as textiles from the Museum's Honey Hooser collection. View examples of looms and tools used in the past and today to produce these useful and ornamental items.

Visit the Museum's Hooser Library to browse the reference collection of books, periodicals, patterns and records, or study the Honey Hooser collection on the virtual collection computer kiosk.

17710-56A Avenue, Surrey British Columbia
604-592-6956

Tuesday-Thursday: 10am-6pm,

Friday and Saturday: 10am-5pm

Closed Sundays, Mondays, and Statutory Holidays

Admission: Adults: \$5, seniors & students: \$3.75, Child & Youth: \$2.50, 5 and under: Free

Groups of 10 or more people must book in advance.

Sheep to Shawl Competition

Cheer on local spinning and weaving guilds as they participate in this traditional competition. Watch as they card, spin, and ply raw sheep's wool into yarn, then weave a shawl-all in four hours! See demonstrations of sheep shearing, view wool displays, and try weaving on heritage looms or spinning on real spinning wheels. Kids can try weaving, or make sheep crafts and pictures while they watch the show.

Saturday, May 23, 11:00am-4:00pm

All ages, by donation

Surrey Museum

17710-56A Avenue, Surrey British Columbia

Dani Brown, Publicist, Surrey Heritage Services, 604-502-6463

Here's the link to the stash sale being put on in Seattle.

HYPERLINK "http://www.ourfabricstash.com/purgeparty.shtml" <http://www.ourfabricstash.com/purgeparty.shtml>

Classified Ads

I have an Ashford spinning wheel that I'd like to sell.

It's a travel single drive, single treadle, classic castle wheel.

The price for a double treadle is \$455, so I think since this one is in primo condition, \$250 is a fair price.

Teresa Van Haalen- e-mail: vhaalen@comcast.net-(360-650-9319)

Update

Please update e-mail address.

The new one is carolzd@gmail.com. -- Carol DeGraaf

My name is Toby Smith and I am a volunteer at Maiwa because I support its goals. This is the fourth installment in a series of articles about the 2009 Maiwa Textile Symposium, "Every thread has a story...". This fall there will be 38 workshops, 14 lectures, and five special events through which Maiwa will bring the world of textiles and their makers to our door. For full and final symposium information check the website at [HYPERLINK "http://www.maiwa.com/" www.maiwa.com](http://www.maiwa.com/). There you will also find podcasts of some of the speakers from previous symposiums, and you can sign up for the mailing list to receive a hard copy of the symposium brochure. This time I am writing about two of the many reasons I think it is important to go to the talks (other than they are fascinating in themselves).

BUILDING YOUR VISUAL VOCABULARY

When I was at art school the instructors used to tell us to constantly work at building a visual vocabulary by looking at images. I would spend hours in the library just flipping pages examining colour relationships, composition, flow, impact, perspective, surface patterning, etc. I looked at magazines and books from all art fields, from commercial art to glossy exhibition catalogues. I then went on to study art history for eight years, which was one long glorious slide show. After all these years of visual vocabulary building, this visual attentiveness is so imbedded in my mind that it is part of my everyday way of seeing the world.

When I design a woven shawl, or plan a dye garden, or do surface design, or embroider, or carve a block, or spin or knit, this stew of colours, shapes, lines, compositions, etc. unconsciously informs every decision I make. Whatever your interest in textiles, you need to build a visual vocabulary and that means being subject to a wide range of images and ideas, even if you don't think you have an interest them. Take it on faith that you will osmose knowledge that will make your work more artful and more rewarding. You wouldn't expect to be a good writer without constantly expanding your scope of vocabulary and ideas, even if you couldn't think at the moment of where to use them. These speakers with their amazing stories, luscious slides and wonderful museum quality textiles you can touch and feel help us to expand our imaginations and this is directly applicable to all aspects of fibre work.

IMPROVE YOUR COMMUNICATION

Textile production has always been a method through which women have expressed themselves and communicated social messages. They have always used textiles to create bonds of family and friendship, to reinforce community, to raise funds, to earn money, to express their individuality, etc. When you take that first stitch, you enter into a trans-historical community of women. Fibre practices bring forward women's knowledge and keep alive crucial techniques and vocabularies with which women have always communicated. As with learning any language, the more one learns the grammar and vocabulary, the more one can say and the more deeply satisfying it is to communicate. And so, the more we learn about textile history and cultural practice in many cultures, the more ways we have to layer meaning in our work. The Gees Bend quilts pop to mind as a great example. The original quilts were made by poor women with no formal art training, they were intended for the bed, and they sold for a desperately-needed \$5. They bear no relationship to what goes on in the pages of art quilting magazines. But these quilts now hang in art galleries and sell for gallery prices. This is because of the layers of meaning that are embedded in them. They are artifacts of historical importance that go well beyond their function. In their use of work clothing remnants they bring forward, not just the personal stories that clothing scraps always convey, but also the history of black poverty that was the legacy of slavery. In their design they bring forward elements and colours that are central to their African heritage. These quilts carry political, social, cultural, and economic messages totally outside the intention of the makers. This is because colour and design convey meaning as much as words do. This is where visual

vocabulary and communication come together.

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whatcomweaversguild.org

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And so, when you go to the talks you find out more about textiles and so you find out more about yourself. This is not just your silly little hobby. It is socially and culturally important and it is meaningful whether or not that is your intention. When you learn about textiles you not only expand your visual vocabulary, you expand your imagination and sense of what is possible. You also know more about textiles in the world and you can understand why they have always been loaded with cultural meaning beyond mere functionality. This knowledge helps you to take your own textile production *whatever it is* more seriously. It also arms you with concrete defenses against having your passion trivialized by others or by yourself.

This relates to everyone. If you want to make a more attractive product for consumers, it is very important to be constantly developing new design ideas. If you want to make a quilt for a grandchild, you want it to be an heirloom full of family and personal meaning. If you want to weave or knit or quilt or dye just for the sake of playing with fibre, you still will want to go beyond skill building, because repetitive doing can get tiresome if you don't have new ways of thinking and approaching your art. So, go to the talks. You will be a more artful producer. You'll feel smarter. You'll be more interesting. And you will understand more fully why we must continue to bring forward these ancient crafts of ours and why we must help those in other parts of the world perpetuate theirs.

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