

November 2010

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

NOVEMBER MEETING:

Wednesday, November 10, 2010

6:30 pm

NOVEMBER PROGRAM:

WHATCOM MUSEUM DIRECTOR TO SPEAK AT NOVEMBER'S MEETING

Patricia Leach, the Executive Director of the Whatcom Museum will speak at our November meeting. She will describe the Whatcom Museum's upcoming exhibits in 2010 - 2011, with a special emphasis on textile-rich displays. She has a particular appreciation of textiles, and is a former director of the San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles.

Patricia has long and varied experiences in museum administration. She came to Whatcom Museum in 2007 with more than 25 years of experience in the field, and made

gaining designation of our local museum as a Smithsonian Affiliate one of her first priorities. She has served as CEO and President of the Hermitage, Home of President Andrew Jackson, located in Nashville, Tennessee. The Hermitage is one of the nation's largest and oldest historic site museums containing 1,120 acres and a campus of 38 buildings. Under her direction, the Hermitage became Nashville's first Smithsonian Institution Affiliate Museum and a member of the Trail of Tears National Historic Trail. In California, Patricia directed six museums, including the afore-mentioned San Jose Museum of Quilts & Textiles, the Redding Museum of Art & History, and the National Steinbeck Center in Salinas, which opened a major new \$10 million museum facility under her tenure.

We welcome her perspective as a museum administrator and an appreciator of fine textiles.

PROGRAMS THIS YEAR

We are excited about the line-up of programs we have coming our way this year.

WWG 2010-2011 Programs Schedule for the rest of the year:

Dec. 8: Charllotte Kwon – Maiwa Foundation

Jan. 12: ANWG goodie bags

Feb. 9: Small interest groups – socialize & learn!

FEBRUARY PROGRAM: SOCIALIZE & LEARN!

For February's program we are planning to have small groups gather according to various fiber interests. This will give everyone a chance to do a couple of things. One, you'll be able to spend some time talking to folks you might not have had a chance to get to know. And two, you'll have the opportunity to explore some fiber interest,

either something you'd like to know more about, or something you'd like to share. We think there could be eight to ten groups with a specific topic in each. If you have a specific topic you'd like to see included, let me know, and I'll do my best to accommodate your requests. Sheri Ward, 961-4956, sheriward@clearwire.net.

Mar. 9: Madelyn van der Hoogt – The state of handweaving today

Apr. 13: Barbara Heller, tapestry

May 11: Anita Mayer – 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.

Daytime Weavers will meet Thursday, November 4 at 10:30 a.m. at the Roeder Home. Bring a sack lunch, a project to work on and show-and-tell if you have any. 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.

ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATION PLANS ARE UNDERWAY

We've started plans for our 40th Anniversary celebration, and we hope you all will be excited to participate. Here's a brief outline of what we are envisioning at this point in time.

We are planning a two-day event to celebrate our guild and promote weaving and other fiber arts within our community. It will likely be on a weekend in mid-June, 2011.

On Saturday, there will be a morning session, covering the guild's history and honoring its founders. We have slides and other display items from Fibers Unlimited, Fibers & Beyond, and our ANWG participation. We may do a fashion show if people think that would be fun.

The afternoon session will be mini-workshops by guild members for other guild members, perhaps similar to the Spin-In last March, with multiple workshops at a given time.

For Saturday evening, we propose a catered dinner with a featured speaker well-known in the fiber community. Maybe we could display items from the afternoon's workshops or other exhibits by from guild members.

For Sunday, there will be an afternoon session of demonstrations and mini-workshops by guild members for members of the public, our out-reach to the community.

We'll let you know more details as they become available. If you have any questions or ideas you would like to see incorporated, feel free to contact me.

Sheri Ward, 961-4956, sheriward@clearwire.net.

>From your ANWG Representative:

ANWG is looking for donations for a Silent Auction to be held at the 2011 Conference. The Silent Auction allows ANWG to continue the program of grants to guilds and conference

grants to members. If you are interested in donating an item for the Auction, please get that item to Gloria Lebowitz, ANWG representative, who will pass any such items on.

Get revved up about the upcoming ANWG conference, Exploring Fiber Horizons, May 29-May 5, 2011.

ANWG contracted instructors for the Conference 2011-

Jason Collingwood

Linda Davis

Linda Hartstom

Barbara Walker

Janis Thompson-spinning

Rebecca Smith-shapes of Tapestry

Donna Crispen-baskets

Kay Harradine Elbom-cedar baskets

Kathie Todd Hooker-tapestry

Nancy Hoskins-taquete

Bobbie Irwin

Daryl Lancaster

Anita Meyer

John Mullarky-tablet weaving

Marilyn Robert-Ikat weaving

Teresa Ruch

Pat Sparks-color in feltmaking

Jannie Taylor-shadow weave 4/6/8

*CLASSIFIED ADS:

I have several items for sale. six natural raffia braids never been opened, \$3.00 each (I think they now sell for \$8.00 ea.) 2 lbs, 11 oz of six ply linen rug warp: I was going to weave rugs, also several lbs of wool I

was going to use for the rug.

Rosalie Nast 756-5862, or grnast@mac.com

WALKING WHEEL OFFERED FOR FREE

One of our visitors to Fibers and Beyond has a walking wheel she would like to donate to a loving home. Anyone interested? The condition is unknown, and wheel has probably not been used for some time. If you are curious, contact the donor through Sheri Ward, 961-4956, sheriward@clearwire.net.

OUTREACH /COMMUNITY EDUCATION

MUG-RUGS MUCH APPRECIATED AT THE YWCA

In early October, Joyce Noordmans and Sheri Ward had the pleasure of presenting the wonderful mugs and mug-rugs all of you created. Just as last year, we met with staff from the YWCA, who then distribute the mugs the following day. We filled the mugs with treats - cocoa, tea, coffee, and chocolate - and wrapped the mugs and mug-rugs in pretty cellophane bags.

YWCA staff member Ann Suloway said the mugs last year were very much appreciated. Women were excited to receive their mugs, and lined up at the office ahead of the normal opening time. She expected this year's gifts would also be warmly received.

We're planning to continue this tradition (and it's a tradition after two years, right?). The guild members who participate all seem to enjoy doing so and the women are very grateful. We are also thinking of offering some low-tech weaving classes in the spring, similar to what we did

before. So be thinking about making a few mug rugs during the course of the year, and think about whether you would like to help out with the classes.

Thanks so much to guild members who helped with this project! Your gifts are very much appreciated by the residents at the YWCA.

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, 961-4956, shereward@clearwire.net.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION-

The Russian Museum of Ethnography - St. Petersburg,
Russia

The Russian Empire of the 18th - early 20th century united the peoples who lived on the vast territory between the Baltic Sea in the West and the Pacific Ocean in the East. The lifestyles of all those peoples are reflected in the collections on display at this Museum. Russians, Ukrainians and Belorussians, as well as the peoples and tribes of the Caucasus, Central Asia and Siberia [i.e. the old USSR] are represented here including many items of interest to the weaver and general textile lover. I spent all morning in this museum but it really deserves at least an entire day, if not a week, given the wide range of ethnicities covered by the museum. Here are a few of the highlights related to textiles.

There is, throughout the large and fabulous costume section, many examples of card woven bands. These were used primarily as decorative waist bands and varied in width from half an inch to about 5 inches in width. They were very like the ones woven by the Scandinavians and made me even more excited about our card weaving workshop in the new year. There were two looms set up in the museum, one very old made out of the crudest hand-hewn wood you can imagine. You could have made it in your backyard with an axe. One of the looms was in a display area set up to demonstrate weaving. In several places in the museum there were displays of woven pieces, illustrating the most beautiful and elegant cloth that can be made on the simplest of looms. For example, there were several overshot pieces that had been woven with a very fine light indigo-dyed linen for the ground web. The pattern weft was dark indigo of a rougher, fatter linen. The effect was rich and elegant, yet this was the work of peasants. I saw many examples of beautifully woven cloth with very fine threads. One was a piece of 2/2 twill blocks with the diagonal

appearing to go in opposite directions in some of the blocks. The warp was raspberry red and the weft white, with the effect being an attractive red and pink because the threads were so fine. But there were also examples of goose-eye twills, hounds tooth, tartans, checks and very complicated and dense supplementary weft [pick-up] works. As in all cold climates, there were many examples of fulled wool fabric made into simple cross-over coats, held closed with a complicated and colourful card-woven belt wrapped several times around the waist. Some of the fine white linen towels had extensive and detailed cross-stitch embroidery on the ends. There were also displays of shuttles, reeds, drop spindles, spinning wheels, and other weaving-related items. Overall, this museum treats weaving as having been an important and central part of life for humble people.

There were also very good displays of surface design. Indigo dyeing itself was featured in one section. There were lengths of handwoven fabric that had been resist-printed and then dyed in indigo. Two cabinets held an array of hand carved blocks used to print the resist onto the fabric. A diaramma showed a man dipping yards of the resist-printed fabric into a huge indigo vat. I have seen almost this same set-up in museums in Slovakia and Hungary, testifying to the long international trade in indigo dye and techniques. St. Petersburg was the capital of Russia for a very long time and the Tzars lived there in their unbelievably swank palaces. They had a vast trade network and so the European and Central Asian influences in the textiles are no surprise. While there are a few examples of ikat weaving, this was not common among the humbler peoples of the continent, which is the focus of the ethnographic museum.

Mittens! I am in love with the Baltic mittens and their elaborate designs. They are common to all the countries around the Baltic basin. There is a large display of them

in the Ethnographic museum and I am inspired. This is the year I learn to knit mittens and I think a Learning Curve on such a skill would be a grand idea. Again I was reminded when I looked at the mitten displays of how amazingly complicated and aesthetically stunning an artifact can be produced from the simplest of tools and materials. This is the history of textiles and it is largely women's history, but I'll spare you that rant. I'll leave you with the museum's English website. Have a look for yourself. Fish around, keep clicking on things. eng.ethnomuseum.ru
Thanks, Toby.

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, 961-4956, sheriward@clearwire.net.

***WWG BUSINESS:**

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

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:

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

Contact information:

E-mail: TracyLeeArt@gmail.com

Whatcomweaversguild.org.