

June 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, W

*JUNE MEETING:

Wednesday, June 9 ,2010.

Remember that the June meeting is our annual stash and funky junk sale. Below is a list of folks who have indicated that they will be participating. The list keeps growing! If I have omitted your name from the list, just send me a reminder e-mail (jahbarnes@msn.com). If you only have an item or two to bring, no need to let me know ~ just haul in your stuff! We'll make room. Also, REMEMBER to bring your cash (small bills and coins) whether you are a buyer or a seller. You can also bring your own bags too so you can carry all sorts of purchases home! See you in June!

Jane Coombs

Kathy Green

Donna Hunter

Margaret Magic

Candy Meacham

Marilyn Monahan

Jill Poppe

Barbara Snow

Elinor Tapio

Maggie Weyers

*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:**

Board meeting is the 3rd Wednesday, at 6:30 pm at the Clubhouse @ Darby Estates unless otherwise noted.

***THE DAYTIME WEAVERS:**

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

***CLASSIFIED ADS:**

From: Sharon Digby <sjmdigby@gmail.com>

I have a jute rug that some of warp strings have broken. I'm looking for someone who might be able to repair this. Do you know of anyone. Thank you.

Sharon Digby

***FIBERS & BEYOND**

Hi everyone! I hope you are busy creating for our sale. It will be upon us before you know it. It is now time to send in your deposit. We will be signing up at the June meeting and if you can not make it, there is a form on the web site you can download and send to our post office box. Send it in by the end of June and save \$5.00. I look forward to seeing all the great things that you are making.
Mary

First, just a reminder about the sale on starting on October 15. I hope you have been busy making all sorts of goodies for the sale. We want to put on another great sale this year.

***F.Y.I**

Whidbey Weavers Guild Meeting

Thursday June 3, 2010

Our meeting runs as follows:

10:00 - 11:00am Business Meeting

11:00 - noon Show & Tell and other fiber presentations

noon - 12:45pm Brown Bag Lunch

12:45 - 1:45 Program

1:45 - 2:00 Wrap up/clean up

The June Program for the Whidbey Weavers Guild will be a Travel Extravaganza. We will have several speakers and lots of textiles from around the world.

Ellen Vlasak and Jacquie Vincent will show slides and textiles from their recent trip to Laos and Vietnam.

Danielle Bodine will show slides of a trip to Japan and bring some old wooden tools that she bought there and will incorporate in her wonderful baskets.

Patti King will talk about the textile traditions in Japan and Korea which arose from the culture of poverty and show examples of bast fiber textiles collected on her travels as well as some contemporary fiber art inspired by these traditions.

Nancy Baggott will bring some of her "flea market " kimonos and talk about Indigo Dyeing with Kenichi Utsuki and his wife Hisako Utsuki who designs their clothing line.

Our Show and Tell for the June meeting will be to bring in your favorite textile collected on your travels.

Check out Handwoven on Facebook:

Hope you are all enjoying spring and finding lots of time to weave. Just wanted to let you know that Handwoven is now on facebook. Please feel free to let members of your guild know that we are out there. You can find us at <http://www.facebook.com/album.php?aid=5856&id=114942801881497&saved#!/pages/Handwoven-Weaving-Today/114942801881497>. You can also search for us within facebook as "Handwoven – Weaving Today."

Ruby Leslie comes to North Eastern Washington

October 19-21, 2010, the Cross Borders Weavers Guild is sponsoring Ruby Leslie workshop in Colville, WA. Ruby will present her color program (50 ways to weave your color) in Colville. Using one color palette and a myriad of weave structures, she'll take a layman's approach to color theory and the principles of optical blending for a facilitated, semi-scientific investigation of color design. Weaving in round-robin format on pre-warped looms (with pre-wound warp chains provided by Ruby), participants will explore the effect different fibers, yarn grists and structures have upon a single color way.

Tuition = \$100 plus a \$65 materials fee

Registration opens in June. A message will be sent out electronically to everyone.

For further details and to register for Cross Borders Weavers class contact Jean Lavell at jalavell@plixtel.com

*FiberHearts application

As you may know from our April meeting, the guild is applying for a grant from Handwoven: the FiberHearts grant advertised in the latest issue. The application has several parts, including an application worksheet and an essay, both of which are shown below; we thought you would be interested in reading through what the guild is proposing. There's also a cover letter and a summary of articles in the press, which are not included here.

FiberHearts 2010 Application Worksheet

Name of Guild:

Whatcom Weavers Guild (WWG)

Name of person or persons who completed the application:

Julie Barnes and Sheri Ward

Contact person (if different from above):

Contact information (address, city, state, zip, phone, e-mail, website):

Whatcom Weavers Guild

P.O. Box 403

Bellingham, WA 98227

Phone: 360-961-4956 (Sheri Ward) or 360-961-1410 (Julie Barnes)

Email: info@whatcomweaversguild.org

www.whatcomweaversguild.org

www.whatcomweavers.blogspot.com

Please briefly answer the following questions.

When was your guild formed?

The Whatcom Weavers Guild (WWG) was formed in 1971 by a group of local artisans who attended a community education class in weaving

offered through Western Washington University in Bellingham, WA.

How many members do you have?

The Whatcom Weavers Guild currently has 93 members.

Does your guild have a permanent home?

The WWG does not have its own facility, although we have a long-term rental/use relationship with a local church. The guild has use of this meeting facility for a nominal \$50 donation per use. Additionally, this church allows access to a multi-use room to store guild-owned resource materials (books, magazines, and small equipment).

How often does the guild meet?

The WWG meets monthly on the second Wednesday evening of each month, September through June.

What demographic information can you share regarding your current membership?

The majority of our guild members live within Whatcom County, Washington. In recent years we have been fortunate to have new cross pollination between the guilds in the area. Between 5-10% of our membership reside closer to other guild "home regions" but elect to be members of the WWG as their primary or secondary guild. This is most likely due to our constant outreach and promotion, exciting slate of meeting programs, and our hugely successful annual sale.

The specific profile of the guild show that the majority of members are women – only one man is a current guild member. 80% of our membership indicates that weaving is one of their primary interests although most members have told us that they have a strong interest in many other fiber related activities.

Two of the other more popular interest areas include knitting (61%) and spinning (44%). In most cases, our membership has a very diverse and well cultivated fiber/craft repertoire. The scholarly and practical knowledge base within the group is remarkable.

Does your guild have any subgroups related to nurturing beginners?

Although the WWG does not have a specific subgroup organized to nurture beginning weavers, we have ample opportunities to involve new and curious weavers in the craft. With specific outreach/educational

stations as an integral element at most of our public events, we encourage people to try their hand at weaving on all sorts of looms (floor, table, rigid heddle, and inkle). Guild members eagerly answer visitor questions and give personal attention to the novice weaver.

While not created to only focus on the beginning weaver, for the past few years the WWG has maintained an ongoing program of member-guided mini workshops titled the "Learning Curve". This program was created to encourage our members to share their skills and talents with other members by inviting them to participate in small classes or one-day workshops geared at teaching new and innovated weaving or textile skills.

A wonderful new venture the guild has embarked upon is to bring regular opportunities to introduce weaving and spinning to the general public. Through the auspices of the Whatcom County Parks Department, the WWG secured use of a local county-owned facility that was gifted to the county as a location for community enrichment programs.

A guild subcommittee formed to develop this exciting outreach endeavor which began during the last week of March 2010. The goals of this subcommittee are to be structured enough to bring the project to forward while keeping in mind that assessing public interest must be evaluated on a regular basis.

How many new members have you gained in the past 12 months?
In the previous year, the WWG has gained 16 members. Out of this group, 14 individuals were new to the group; whereas, the remaining two were previous members who returned to the fold.

How many members have you lost in the past 12 months?
The WWG has had seven members decided not to renew their membership for the current guild year. Out of this group, two individuals did not renew due to work schedules; one member was having health problems; and the remaining group did not report their reason for not renewing.

FiberHearts Proposal by the Whatcom Weavers Guild

The Whatcom Weavers Guild, located in Bellingham, Washington, has an evolving program of outreach and teaching we would like to expand.

Current programs and outreach

Beyond the programs at the Whatcom Weavers Guild (WWG) monthly meetings and guild-sponsored workshops for members, our guild currently engages in several activities throughout the year.

Perhaps the activity most visible to the general community is the WWG's annual Fibers & Beyond show held in October. We have conducted this sale since 2000, and it has grown progressively in our public following and in sales volume. Along with the show, we provide demonstrations of weaving and spinning. Last year, despite an economy in recession and a fairly small county population, we grossed over \$20,000 during a show that is open only from Friday evening through Saturday afternoon. Many of our returning clients look forward to the sale as the kick-off to their holiday shopping. We advertise the sale extensively, including a concurrent display at the local public library.

For many years, we have also been involved in the Wool Show at the week-long Northwest Washington Fair in Lynden, Washington, which draws over 200,000 visitors each summer. We demonstrate spinning and weaving, allow hands-on opportunities, and provide visitors with guild contact information if they are interested. Children and adults will often sit down and weave a short piece on the demonstration loom or have a small piece of their own handspun yarn to carry away. Guild members also participate in the Kids' Fair, an event during spring break held at the fairgrounds to expose school children to a variety of arts and crafts.

Over the last few years, we have partnered with the Whatcom Art Guild in some of their seasonal shows. At present, we show items for sale and demonstrate at their spring show, which is held during Ski-to-Sea weekend, a regional event just prior to Memorial Day that attracts thousands local and out-of-area visitors.

During the past year, we have started two new outreach programs. In the fall of 2009 we donated handmade mug-rugs and matching mugs to the YWCA, which provides transitional housing for women. This event was covered in a short article in the J/F issue of Handwoven. To

follow that up, we have been conducting simple weaving and beading classes at the home using cardboard looms and other low-cost materials. The classes have been rewarding, and the Y's director is enthusiastically supportive. This year, the WWG plans to repeat the donation, and we look forward to a continuing relationship with the YWCA.

In March 2010, we started a program to provide free walk-in spinning and weaving opportunities to the general public at the Roeder Home, a local historic home. For over 30 years, the home had been used by the Whatcom County Parks Department to stage various arts and crafts classes, including spinning and weaving. Many of our guild members learned how to spin or weave through the classes there. However, the county program fell victim to budget cuts in 2008. Since then, we have arranged with the county to use the home for free fiber events and to make use of the county-owned equipment that remains from the programs they ran.

Recruiting and holding new members

Our on-going monthly programs and workshops help recruit and hold new members. These programs and events are actively publicized in local and regional media with the distribution of press releases and strategic announcement placement in print and online calendars. Additionally, we have an active web presence through a guild website, guild blog, monthly e-newsletter, and use of other social media platforms such as Twitter.

Proposed outreach

In 2011, our guild will celebrate its 40th anniversary. We would like to mark the occasion with a two-day symposium that would encompass a Fiber Fair for the public and also include a forum for some stimulating intra-guild teaching.

The first day of the symposium would include a keynote speaker and a diverse assortment of presentations by guild members to each other. We have many talented members, and this would give them a forum to present their specialties, along with celebrating our guild.

The second day of the symposium guild members would share with the public. These presentations would be geared to public interest and

include demonstrations and public participation suitable for a range of ages.

If granted a cash award, we would use the funds to pay for an outside speaker, advertisement, refreshments, supplies, and facility rental. We would hope to stage this symposium at the Roeder Home in order to give more visibility to the new program we have there.

If granted an equipment award, we would use it for more programming at the Roeder Home and in our demonstrations at various events. Since we do have some equipment available from the county, we would likely have the ancillary items needed to make good use of an award.

***WWG BUSINESS:**

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

2010/2011 BOARD

President: Donna Hunter

Past President: Pat Fisher

Vice President and Programs: Sheri Ward, Julie Barnes assisting

Workshops: Toby Smith, Donna Hunter. We would like a third person to be on the team.

Membership/Hospitality: Toni Wade, Carol Henry

Library: Elinor Tapio

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: (360) 927-1459

E-mail: TracyLeeArt@gmail.com

Whatcomweaversguild.org.