

❖ Northwest News ❖

Association of Northwest Weavers' Guilds

northwestweavers.org

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PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

In a recent email I was challenged to list the benefits for guild membership in ANWG. This lists the benefits and information available for all.

NETWORKING

Each guild has a role to play for the individual; the camaraderie among like-minded individuals. Where else can you find such an inspirational group that is focused on what you like to do? The members of the guild mentor, inspire, challenge, encourage and amaze with projects, show and tell, workshops, events and programs. The many guilds that make up ANWG across two countries meet at our conferences and annual membership meetings.

WEBSITE

- Free classified ads for the sale or trade of fiber and weaving related equipment, products, services or animals.
- The history of the organization, structure of the organization and board, the location of all guilds by country and state/province. Also there is a map showing the geographical location of each guild, the representative's e-mail address and the guilds individual website if one is available.
- The board members are listed along with their responsibilities.
- Member guild sponsored events, conferences, classes and workshops are posted for all to see and get involved.
- Newsletters, by-laws, standing rules, forms and reports are posted.
- Membership information and forms are posted.
- A list of weaving and other fiber arts instructors with a description of their specialty and contact information link.
- Information regarding some of the past conferences with links.

CONFERENCES

ANWG generally has a conference every other year. As you know, we did not have a conference in 2015. However, we are now booked for the next four, possibly five, conferences which is eight to ten years out. Thank you to all of the guilds who have volunteered to take on this huge undertaking. The next conference planning is well underway and will be in Victoria, British Columbia—*2017 Treadle Lightly*

(Cont'd. on p. 2).



President's Message (Cont'd.)

Education

Challenge grants have been awarded and continue to be made available to guilds with small numbers and rural settings—a great benefit. Betty Bell of the Seattle Weavers' Guild should be acknowledged for her work and creative thinking in developing this program. It has been a great success. The money for this program comes from the profits of previous conferences, and we are about to award more grants for the coming year. We will rely upon profits from the 2017 conference to continue this program.

We also have a DVD library available with offerings listed on the website. I am certain there are many other benefits. This is your challenge as well. If you see other benefits, please e-mail me your ideas and thinking. Thank you.

Woven together
Anne

CHALLENGE GRANT REPORTS

COMBINING COMMON COTTONS Methow Valley Spinners and Weavers

The weekend of October 10-11, 2015, our guild brought in Mary Berent from Eagle, ID (near Boise) to teach a 2 day workshop on “Combining Common Cottons”. It was set up as a round-robin format, where each loom had a different setup, and then, we took turns weaving a sample on each one. We had 10 people and 11 looms setup, so it was busy and kind of intense, but we got through it all.

The idea is to combine commonly available and relatively inexpensive plain cotton weaving yarns with other types of yarns (novelty knitting yarns, more textured or heavy cotton yarns, linen, and other fibers—including mohair!) for a variety of reasons. These could include: making a more interesting fabric, making a fabric better suited to its purpose, saving money when using expensive yarns, not having enough of something you really wanted to use, etc. Mary brought lots of examples.

At the end of the second day, we took the entire length woven off each loom and discussed what we were seeing, before cutting them apart so everyone could take their sample home to be wet-finished and stored in our notebooks.

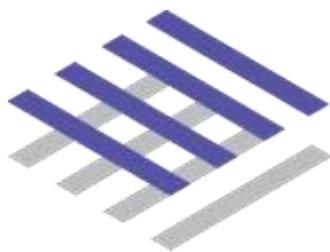
We also asked Mary to give a 2-hour lecture Sunday evening that was open to all, not just our guild. The topic was “Inspiration, Color & Design” and we had about 22 people in attendance down at TwispWorks (a community campus in Twisp where dozens of partners have offices and studios, and that was formed to help businesses and youth achieve more through programs in education, agriculture, technology, art and culture). This was the community outreach part of the grant we received from ANWG. Again, Mary brought lots of samples for people to pore over. Everyone, including the non-weavers, found it interesting.

We thank ANWG for this grant, half of which was used to pay for Mary Berent's lecture fee, travel costs, the materials fee for the workbooks, and to partially cover her teaching fee to bring down the tuition cost for workshop participants.



CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL GRANT RECIPIENTS!

- #1 Midnight Shuttles Spinners and Weavers, BC. Tapestry workshop.
- #2 Saturday Handweavers Guild, So. OR Jason Collingwood workshop for 20 participants plus library display and study group projects afterward.
- #3 Sunshine Coast Spinners and Weavers Guild, BC Fibre camp with 4 workshops, other events.
- #4 Skagit Valley Weavers Guild, WA Weaving mentorship program, open to community and guild members over a period of months.
- #5 Fernie Spinners and Weavers Guild, BC Part 2 of a garment construction workshop series plus gallery display.
- #6 Tacoma Weavers Guild, WA Dye workshop to include 2 spinning groups. Displays at 3 fairs, 2 libraries.
- #7 Olympia Weavers Guild, WA Basketry workshop for guild and community.
- #8 Central Oregon Spinners and Weavers Guild, OR Natural dyes workshop for 20, learn history of natural dyes, also provide a guild meeting program.
- #9 Salem Fiberarts Guild, OR Three \$200 grants to guild members to use toward outside workshops and seminars.
- #10 Klamath Spinners and Weavers Guild and Rogue Valley Handweavers, OR 2 guilds to put on a weekend of workshops in weaving and dyeing; evening activities, vendors.
- #11 Arachne Weavers Guild, WA Weaving boot camp for new weavers, series of classes. Displays at fairs.
- #12 Lethbridge Handicraft Guild, Alberta Woven impressions of Lethbridge, tea towel project in teams based on town architectural structure design.
- #13 Whidbey Weavers Guild, WA Silk Kimono workshop using handspun yarns from previous workshop.
- #14 Alpine Weavers and Spinners Group and MAWS, Montana Conference with weaving, spinning, knitting and other fiber art classes.
- #15 Peninsula Weavers Guild, WA Daryl Lancaster 3-day workshop, plus evening program.
- #16 Desert Sage Spinners and Weavers Guild, BC Allison Irwin weaving workshop.
- #17 San Juan Co. Textile Guild, WA Rent community center for guild meetings and provide transportation to and from meetings and ferry expenses to attract new members
- #18 Eugene Weavers Guild, OR 70 year guild anniversary, 8 history of fiber arts-weaving display panels for use at fairs, galleries, conferences.
- #19 Gorge Handweavers Guild, OR Linen weaving workshop with Jette Vandermeiden.
- #20 Handweavers Guild of Boise Valley, ID Walking the Weaving Path, Diane Totten crimp and create workshop.
- #21 Whatcom Weavers Guild, WA Fabulous Fibers, workshops, displays, demonstrations at community art center.
- #22 Whonnock Weavers and Spinners, BC Basket workshops.
- #23 Threadbenders Guild Designing Full Circle Workshop with Mary Berent



TREADLE LIGHTLY

ANWG 2017
NW Weavers'
Conference

News from Treadle Lightly 2017 Conference
ANWGconference2017.com

18 Months and counting!

We on the Planning Committee are shifting to high gear as we work to sort out all the details that make up a conference. We have five vendors committed already and are working with the instructors to make sure all their teaching needs will be met. Planning continues for the Fashion Show, Banquet, and Victorian Afternoon Tea—bring your sun hats and parasols. Start planning your tea towels for the tea towel exchange.

We are making some changes and trying out new ideas. In the interests of living up to our theme we have chosen not to have a goody bag as it seems to us that many of the items end up gathering dust in the studio or worse, in the garbage. Instead, we are planning for a special conference bag and a non-leaking coffee mug.

Another change involves the Fashion Show. The fabulous Farquhar Auditorium at the University of Victoria is extremely popular with high school graduation classes--so popular that it is booked solid years in advance from mid-May to the end of June. This meant that we could not rent the auditorium for the Fashion Show until the Saturday evening of the conference. As a result, the Fashion Show display will be available on the Sunday of the conference only. Mark your calendars, as you won't want to miss it!

Guilds, now is the time to start planning your guild booth. The registration form is available on the website and you can download and mail it or register online.

Write and let us know how your entries for the shows are going at info@anwgconference2017.com I have been experiencing serious gremlins in the dye pot while working on my entry for the Fashion Show. The last attempt came out dark red instead of green so that is where I'm heading when I finish writing to you.

Keep checking back to the website as it is evolving as we add more information. If you have questions or want to subscribe to our newsletter, check out the Contact Us page.

Happy weaving
Christine

CHALLENGE GRANT REPORTS

Helena Weavers and Spinners Guild TAMING OF THE HUE

The Helena Weavers and Spinners Guild applied for and received a \$600 grant from the Association of Northwest Weaving Guilds (ANWG) to bring Robyn Spady, a nationally renowned weaver, to Montana to teach her “Taming of the Hue” workshop on color theory.

Over 40 weavers, spinners and other artists attended the workshop held March 7 and 8, 2015 and participated in hands on exercises to use colors in new ways, and to use new colors that we may normally not have chosen.

We learned terminology, how to assess color value and intensity, and how to make that work for us in our projects (and why some things we think are great ideas turn out to be not so good!).

After the workshop, the guild put together a hands on display at the Lewis and Clark County Fair July 23 through 26, 2015. Fair attendees were able to play with color and learn about the Bezold effect, color trends and values. Robyn was kind enough to provide extra specialty materials (gray scale cards, red cellophane frames and extra paint chips) to use at the fair.

The fair display consisted of different stations with paint chips available that could be cut and pasted onto various media to see how the colors were affected. Additionally, we challenged guild members to create mood boards and/or completed items to display using the color of the year-Marsala- and the knowledge we had gained. We had several mood boards and finished products to show at the fair displaying the different ideas we heard about at the workshop.

We were able to charge only \$40 per attendee for the 2 day workshop, however we did have to reassess our budget midway through the process; we had some items we hadn't initially thought of (Pay Pal fees, refreshment costs) as well as some last minute issues that came up.

The Helena Weavers and Spinners Guild thanks ANWG for their generous grant allowing us to bring in an instructor that would have otherwise been unavailable to us.

Guild booth at Lewis and Clark County Fair



Mood Boards



Display Items Using Color of the Year/Fall Palette



CHALLENGE GRANT REPORTS

FABULOUS FIBER 2015 Whatcom Weavers Guild/Peace Arch Spinners and Weavers

We had a wonderful, successful mini-conference in September!

The event started with a keynote talk by Karen Selk, complete with a brief fashion show. Karen showed many of her slides from her travels through Southeast Asia, and then a few of those items were modeled by Susan Clueit, Sharon Allen, and Marilyn Olsen. Karen had a large collection of textiles that were on display after the talk, so we could all have a nice close-up look and touch. A great evening all-in-all, attended by around 80 people.

The workshops were attended by slightly more than 60 people. They included 15 people from lower BC, 24 from our guild, 14 people from Washington State, but outside Whatcom County, and 9 people in our area but new to our guild. The workshops that filled, or nearly so, were Double Weave, Beginning Weaving, Tapestry Weaving, Natural Dyeing, Felted Hat, and Wire Weaving. Others that were not as full, but had happy participants were Raven's Tail, Artful Embellishment, Bow Loom Weaving, Papiersterne, and Paper & Stitch. Unfortunately, we did not receive enough enrollment to have the spinning or basketry workshops.

The vendors did reasonably well, given that it was a fairly small conference. The majority of them said they would return if we were to hold a similar event in the future. The vendors were located in a place very visible from the street, and there were some drop-in customers as well as the workshop attendees.

The ceramic studio hosted a very successful ice cream social on Thursday afternoon. For \$10 you could buy a hand-made ceramic bowl, have some Edaleen Dairy ice cream in it, and take the bowl home. Most people at the conference took advantage of this treat, and the ceramics studio raised some funds for their supplies.

We partnered with the Peace Arch Weavers and Spinners Guild and the Jansen Art Center. The conference did make a small profit for the Jansen and both guilds.

Throughout the weekend, we were surrounded by smiling, engaged, happy people. The casual comments we received during the conference and the written comments that we've received since are overwhelming.



CHALLENGE GRANT REPORTS

FALL RETREAT Central Oregon Spinners and Weavers, Klamath Falls Spinners and Weavers, Gorge Handweavers

With a drop spindle in constant motion and dressed in a kimono jacket of her own design, *Sara Lamb's* energy and enthusiasm was apparent as she addressed spinners at a recent two day workshop in Bend, Oregon. Sara is an extraordinary weaver, spinner, dyer, rug-maker and beader who joined 44 members of Central Oregon Spinners and Weavers, Klamath Falls Spinners and Weavers, and Gorge Handweavers guilds in the Bend workshop.

She encouraged spinners to try new fibers like silk, and demonstrated plying techniques reminding them to keep in mind the drape and use for the fiber they are producing. Her extraordinary sample pieces are soft, finely woven and her color and dyeing skills are nothing but awe inspiring.

Across the hall *Robyn Spady's* weavers came with warped looms that were threaded in one of three different patterns. Producing "extreme warp makeovers" is possible with an endless choice of treadling options on a four harness loom. Robyn's use of the computer and her workshop notebook made the process easy to follow and, as the room went quiet, one could often hear oohs and aahs, or "I like that one", as more variables were created.

Robyn also shared her "Tips and Techniques" for every weaver to make weaving easier, faster, and more efficient in a Sunday seminar. Both instructors shared a portfolio of work and inspiration at two evening seminars. New and old friends connected throughout the weekend that was further enhanced with the presence of *Lunatic Fringe Yarns* and *Eugene Textile Center* who helped us add to the stash of fibers, books, and equipment inherent to our craft.

Out thanks go to **ANWG** for their grants, and the three Guilds that pooled resources to maximize the impact of these fabulous workshops at the Fall Retreat.



CHALLENGE GRANT REPORTS

SATURDAY EXPO San Juan County Textile Guild

Thanks to the generous Challenge Grant from ANWG, the San Juan County Textile Guild was able to host a wonderfully grand 6-hour Saturday Expo that increased awareness and educated 150+ visitors from our islands' communities on all kinds of fiber and textile arts. Finished projects, handouts and posters were on display as well as members working on projects in progress. Members from various artist groups included spinning, weaving, knitting and crocheting, quilting, sewing, basketry, beading, nuno felting, embroidery, and rug hooking. Extra special and unique items included a sock machine, knitting machine, walking spinning wheel and even a compu-dobby loom!

Visitors were able to interact and ask questions of all guild members displaying and demonstrating their crafts as well as participate in free "make and take" projects. These projects included garlic bulb baskets, beaded bracelets, sewing on an old fashioned cabinet Singer, hand quilting, hand sewing 'critters', as well as take a try at spinning and knitting. Additionally, when each guest spent some time talking to/asking questions to learn about a member's craft, they received a raffle ticket. When they were totaled up, there were 284 raffle tickets/meaningful contacts made!

Our Guild is made up of members from 6 islands (and a few mainlanders) which means we don't get to get together and work together very often. The Expo created a wonderful Guild member opportunity for fellowship within the Guild as well as the community, seeing and learning what others do. About 35 (or one-third) of the Guild members from all islands were able to attend and enjoy the day.

Each of the various artist categories make contributions to a HUGE raffle basket that was won by a member of the community. We signed up four new members and many more forms were taken. All in all, the day was a great success!

A special thanks to the eight hard working members of the Overall Expo Committee for all their hard work and, once again, to ANWG for their sponsorship!



CHALLENGE GRANT REPORTS

ROBIN SPADY SEMINARS AND WORKSHOPS Qualicum Weavers and Spinners Guild

Our guild is relatively small and our members often have limited funds and divergent interests. Finding an instructor with a subject broad enough to appeal to a large enough segment of our members is challenging and then there is the cost. We usually don't even consider bringing someone in from anywhere beyond coastal B.C. With ANWG's grant it was possible for us to stretch our horizons beyond the local and well-known instructors and to invite Robyn Spady to come to our area.

At the end of June 2015 our Guild was fortunate to have Robyn present the seminars Taming of the Hue (who doesn't need to know more about colour?), One Shuttle Wonders, Weaving TNT (packed full of excellent hints for weavers of all skill levels), and Two Sides to every Cloth. The seminars were well attended with weavers from several island communities: Port Alberni, Nanaimo, Victoria, Qualicum Beach, Comox, Courtenay, Parksville and Denman Island.

The seminars were followed by a weekend workshop – Extreme Warp Makeover. This workshop was intense, covering over a dozen different weave structures that can be woven on a single warp on 4-shaft loom. Each participant wove on her own loom so there was no pressure to weave quickly, to keep up with everyone else, or to get all the samples done by the end of the workshop. That made for an enjoyable experience. The variety of weave structures possible was an eye opener to both our advanced and beginner weavers. Participants left inspired.

On behalf of our guild and workshop participants, I would like to thank ANWG for making this educational experience possible. The extended weekend was a great success and has left us with a little money to put towards a future educational experience for our area.

ANWG FIRST VICE-PRESIDENT NEEDED

Due to unforeseen circumstances, Susie Liles has resigned as 1st Vice President. The ANWG Bylaws and Standing Rules, found on the ANWG Website: www.northwestweavers.org, under Member Resources, gives the process for filling a vacancy on the Elected Board.

According to the ANWG Standing Rules under Officers, Section III states,

3.5 The Second Vice President shall perform and oversee the performance of the following duties:

- a. Appoint the chairperson of the Nominating Committee.
- b. Take over the office of the First Vice President if the First Vice President resigns, is removed from office, or takes over the position of President, until the next regularly scheduled election of officers.

Therefore, Mary Anna Swinnerton is now the 1st Vice President.

If you or anyone you know is interested in the position, please contact Mary Anna Swinnerton or Anne Oglevie for information.

CHALLENGE GRANT REPORTS

POWELL RIVER FIBRE RETREAT

The organizing committee of the 2015 Powell River Fibre Retreat (formerly known as the Vancouver Island Spinners' and Weavers' Retreat), is pleased to report that our event was a great success. We welcomed more than 80 participants who came from Vancouver Island, Quadra Island, the Sunshine Coast and the Lower Mainland.

Our weekend was preceded by a pre-retreat workshop led by Rosalie Neilson at the Powell River Fine Arts Building. Rosalie provided much inspiration through her workshop: "It's in the Warp: Colour and Design in Warp-Faced Rep". The two day workshop was well attended and much appreciated.

Late Friday afternoon, participants gathered at the Beach Gardens Resort for a fun evening starting with a meet and greet. There were many amazing projects on display at the Show and Tell Table.

Many attendees took part in the t-towel exchange which included a bit of a fun twist. In addition, we had a used book exchange/sale which proved extremely popular. Friday turned into a fun evening of catching up with old friends and meeting new ones. All of the food was catered by the Beach Gardens Resort which gave us plenty of time to socialize during meals.

Saturday was filled with a large assortment of demonstrations, presentations and mini hands-on workshops. Participants could choose to participate in any of these well-led events or simply sit and spin/knit/converse with friends in a warm and relaxing atmosphere.

Saturday afternoon, Rosalie Neilson presented a lecture on "Ripped" About Rep. This was well attended by all participants. Rosalie gave us interesting insight into the world of Rep Weave. She brought many samples to inspire us and was most gracious in sharing her knowledge.

Saturday evening was a fun-filled evening with much laughter and great food. Door prizes abounded...all donated by members of our local community. The fashion show proved to be an awesome event. There were many show-stopping items from the many talented weavers, spinners, knitters, felters, and fibre artists in attendance. Beautiful shawls both woven and knitted, a prize winning felted hat, a coat of many colours, cardigans and sweaters and even a jacket made of plastic provided much entertainment and eyecandy for the participants.

Of course, no retreat is complete without shopping! We had a great selection of vendors. We had both local suppliers and suppliers coming from Vancouver Island and the Sunshine Coast. There was plenty to choose from for fibre artists of all kinds.

Sunday morning we all met again for a farewell brunch at the waterfront restaurant of the Beach Gardens Resort. We received a lot of positive feedback from the participants and we are all looking forward to meeting again next year. With the help of the grant we received from ANWG, we were able to provide the afternoon lecture by Rosalie Neilson for free and also provide a small honorarium to our 'Saturday Events' leaders.



CHALLENGE GRANT REPORTS

JOAN BAXTER WORKSHOP Seattle and Tacoma Weavers Guilds

The Seattle and Tacoma Weavers' Guilds were fortunate to have Joan Baxter present a five-day workshop in May. Fourteen tapestry weavers participated in the class held on Vashon Island. We stayed in weavers' homes or at Plum Lodge, a bed and breakfast that not only hosted Joan and six other weavers but also provided the workshop room.

The theme of the workshop was *Between Land and Sea*, and all the weavers had gathered items, photos, and memories in advance. Each day Joan presented information about her weaving, her designs, and her techniques through slides, lectures, samples, and demonstrations.

Joan started the workshop by explaining how she uses yarns of two different weights to mix and blend her colors. She always uses a core color of the heavier weight as her main color as she moves from one color mix to another. She brought a wide selection of yarn, some of it spun and dyed to replicate medieval yarn and some from Weavers Bazaar in England. We identified two main colors that we would be using, and our assignment was to weave sample squares of color as we thought about our choice of photos and our design. It was a relaxing way to ease into a week of designing and weaving.

Joan suggested that we design a simple composition and said that she uses a very simple cartoon. She focuses on shape. She talked about land and sky and the use of a horizon in western art. She also said that she makes a decision about the frame of her composition, giving examples from her own work. Sometimes the frame is within the design, and sometimes it is an actual frame such as an oval that you look through. Lastly, she gave examples of the structure of her compositions and use of transparency where core colors overlap.

Joan demonstrated a number of techniques. She showed hatching with two color mixes in which each thread bundle has one color in common. She also showed us how she makes fields of dots over two or three warps as well as dashes in the background of her pieces. She often breaks up a plain background with lazy lines.

In addition to the workshop, Joan gave a slide show and presentation for more than fifty members of the local community and other weavers from guilds in Tacoma, Seattle, and Whidbey Island. We listened and viewed slides for nearly two hours. Joan talked about her background and said that she is the child of a landscape painter. After high school, she studied art in Edinburgh and also in Poland. She worked at West Dean for a number of years and wove many of Henry Moore's drawings. She has also spent time in Australia, which she described as a magical landscape. She described tapestry as 'freeing.' It is not every day that a talented Scottish weaver is in your neighborhood.

The workshop participants would like to thank the ANWG board for help with the workshop expenses. In addition to making the week-long workshop more affordable, we came to realize that it will be possible for our group to organize more workshops on our own. Thanks for your support and encouragement.



Out and About in the Guilds

Shuswap Spinners and Weavers Guild

Salmon Arm, British Columbia, nestled along the shores of Shuswap Lake, is home to the Shuswap Spinners and Weavers Guild.

Our guild has always enjoyed creating guild projects that will be inclusive of all members and all levels of experience. The latest project of choice was a group blanket weaving/waulking project. The weaving took place in our guild room on our 60-inch Woolhouse Loom. Our experienced weavers would provide assistance, if required, for our newer weavers. As well, because we always have a high profile presence at our local fair, it was decided the waulking would take place at our Salmon Arm Fair in September. The fair venue would provide an entertaining and educational experience for both the public and our members.

A lovely goose-eye plaid was chosen for the blankets, using five colours. We set to work, warping the loom for five blankets, using Briggs and Little, Regal, with a sett of 10 e.p.i. During the weaving process, the weavers used a short-cut process that kept all the blankets joined together with twisted fringes before the removal of the web. Once one blanket was woven, the weavers hemstitched the end of their blanket, moved the warp ahead allowing for the appropriate length of fringe, and a new weaver started weaving the next blanket. After a couple of inches of weaving, the beginning of the blanket was hemstitched, and the weaver returned to the warp threads of the previous blanket. The weaver started to twist the bundles (while still on the loom) in one direction and, once twisted, twisted each bundle of two in the opposite direction until they could not twist anymore. A strong yarn was put through the remaining holes in order to maintain and secure the twist and left there. Then the weaver continued on. The result? Five blankets, joined together with fringes already twisted. A neat trick to cut down on the usual tedium of twisting fringes after removing the web from the loom!

The joined blankets were soaked in hot water with Dawn dish detergent in preparation for the waulking. Waulking usually takes place with Celtic music and singing to assist waulkers in picking up the web, throwing it down, and moving it to the person next door in a consistent rhythm. We had no access to such music, but one of our members kindly provided some great rhythms for us on her accordion. It worked out just fine and the web kept moving around the table in splendid style. Every so often the waulking stopped and our coordinator checked the state of the fulling until we had it just right. Special attention was given the already-twisted fringes to make sure we were fulling the twisted fringes adequately. Once the waulking was finished, the excess moisture was squeezed out of the web by hand. Our coordinator used a quilting ruler and rotary cutter and expertly cut the twisted fringes evenly between each blanket. Members took about 30 minutes, brushing in both warp and weft direction on both front and back of the blanket while wet, to sufficiently raise the nap. Individual blankets were then taken home to rinse all the detergent out and do the final blocking. A variety of ways to do the final rinsing were used, ranging from laying a blanket on mesh wire and using a garden hose, some used a bath tub, some rinsing and spinning out excess soap and moisture in a top loader washing machine.

Our members were thrilled with their beautiful blankets and the public thoroughly enjoyed watching the process. Enjoyable? You bet it was. We've already got members names on a list to do another set. Greetings from the Shuswap Spinners and Weavers Guild in beautiful Salmon Arm, British Columbia!



Out and About in the Guilds

Helena Weavers and Spinners Guild

Ten members of the Helena Weavers and Spinners Guild met the afternoon of October 11 for the first gathering of the Dye Study Group. All brought skeins of wool yarn to space dye in Laurel, Susan and Paula's downtown studio space. Laurel led us as we soaked our skeins in cool water and a "glug" of vinegar. Then we dump mixed (No measuring allowed!) powdered acid dyes in water heated in a coffee pot. Next came the fun part: applying the colors to our skeins using syringes and squirt bottles. Dyes could also be sprayed or painted on with sponge brushes.



The liquid dyes were kneaded into the yarns until saturated, rolled up in plastic wrap like a sausage, and heated in a microwave oven for 2-3 minutes or until the yarn was hot and the colored liquid bubbling. After cooling, the dyed skeins were rinsed in cool water and transported home in Ziploc bags to hang dry and finally to weave or knit (Thank you, Susan!)

Laurel also showed how to place balls of yarn into a crockpot full of heated water. Different dye colors were placed among the balls or injected into them with a needle and syringe. The yarn balls will take up color differently depending on where they made contact with other balls of yarn or open areas of liquid. The next gathering will cover fleece dyeing at the same location on November 15.



The Helena Weavers and Spinners Guild also enjoyed a twill class taught by member Gina Ziegler on October 17 and 18. Twenty-two looms and 33 members were in attendance. Members wove an amazing variety of twill patterns and colors in the round-robin workshop. Twill structures ranged from Straight Draw and Point Twill on 4-shafts to Pinwheel and Fancy Twill on 8-shafts. More choices to explore included Turned Twill Blocks and Advancing Twill. Some looms were warped with stripes in different patterns and colors such as Four Centers of Diamonds, Rosepath, Point and Broken Twill intermixed with Basket Weave borders. Joanne Hall also spoke on floating selvages. Weavers went home with a new respect for this weave structure, a notebook of patterns, and countless ideas for future projects.

Out and About in the Guilds

Lethbridge Weavers

Woven Ribbon: The Installation

In 2015, the Lethbridge Weavers created a temporary installation, **Woven Ribbon**, in downtown Lethbridge's dramatic new community arts facility, Casa. The large-scale ribbon designed in graduated colours ran 120 feet from the building entry up to the ceiling of the second floor through the glassed-in staircase, and lead patrons to a showcase outside the weaving studio which held one of two looms on which the work had been created. Our installation was designed to promote the art and craft of weaving. The general public was invited to view the colorful piece as it grew, and take part in its production as it was being woven.

The creation of the ribbon was a whole guild activity in which members participated in its design, creation, installation and sale. Plans were begun during the summer of 2014, with preparation and weaving taking place from September, 2014 through summer, 2015. The completed work was unveiled at a public reception in September, 2015. It was also in place for the Lethbridge Art Walk (part of a province-wide weekend promoting the arts) so that it could be admired and enjoyed by the community at large as they circulated through the facility.

This was a perfect guild project for us in that it involved all members, created community interest in weaving, had an end-date, and made money for us through the sale of the 45 tea towels that the installation was designed to be cut into after it was taken down. And best of all, we had a lot of fun doing it.



**ANWG Year End Financial Report
Jan. 1, 2015 to Dec. 31, 2015**

Income and Expenses

Income:

Dues \$3,507.60

Total Income \$3,507.60

Expenses:

2015 remaining Challenge Grants \$3,000.00
Administration 106.15
Website 79.79
D&O Insurance 1,043.50
2015 Annual Meeting
(June 12-13, 2015) 6,792.77
2016 Annual Mtg. deposit 116.20

Total Expenses \$11,138.41

Current Assets as of Dec. 31, 2015

Checking Account \$11,401.54
Savings Account \$19,894.59
20 month CD \$10,500.00

Total Assets \$41,796.13

Note: Int. Pd. On Savings \$ 8.10
Int. Acc. On CD \$130.22

Submitted by Linda Gettmann, Treasurer
Jan. 5, 2016



SAVE THIS DATE



***2016
ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING***

***VICTORIA, BRITISH COLUMBIA
SATURDAY, JUNE 4, 2016***

More details later