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NEWSLETTER
THE MOUNTAIN SPINNERS AND WEAVERS GUILD
VOLUME XXXIV NUMBER 4 December, 2010
P. O. BOX 1820 PRESCOTT, AZ 86302

President's Letter

The cold weather has come full on! I look forward to knitting on my 'surprise jacket' each night; it has grown to the size of a blanket and feels good on my lap. (And, yes, I'm still working on it!)

The holidays are a great time to be a craftsperson -- completing gifts, for family and friends, which have come off your loom, your spinning wheel, or even your kumihimo marudai. The list could go on and on!

I wish each of you a wonderful holiday season! Enjoy your time with family and friends.

Happy weaving & spinning,

Anne Marston

December Membership Meeting
Saturday, December 11, 2010
American Lutheran Church
1085 Scott Dr., Prescott

10:30 AM – 12:45 PM Holiday Potluck - bring a main dish or side dish to share. Drinks, plates, cups, and cutlery will be provided.
Remember—the potluck is this Saturday, December 11, 2010.

Special Interest Groups

Mondays – Spinning 10 am -2 pm at Sharlot Hall Museum.

Tuesdays – UFO (UnFinished Objects) 1:00 pm, Annemarie Bellem's or Anne Marston's, call first, 445-5564

Wednesdays – Bead Weaving, Wilda Postel's, call first, 776-4481

Fridays – Sewing Handwovens, 4th Friday of each month, 11:00 a.m., Wilda Postel's

Please note: SEWING HANDWOVENS INTEREST GROUP - the sewing group will not meet in November or December. We will meet on our regular 4th Friday in January.

Future Programs

January: Michelle Johnson on felting

February: Jane Hoffman, "Natural Dyes: A Tapestry Weaver's Approach to a Full Color Palette"

March: Silent Auction

April: Bobbie Irwin on weaving

May: Diane Wilson on basketry in Thailand

Announcements

Linking to Your Website on MSWG

If you would like to include a link to your website, send an email to d2meyer@cableone.net with your link and any description you would like added to the MSWG page on member websites.

History, Lore, and Other Arcana



Model of an ancient Egyptian weaver's workshop, Upper Egypt, Middle Kingdom, c. 19th century B.C.E. The model shows a horizontal loom and warping tools.

Source: Metropolitan Museum of Art, New York

"Fiber Art Unraveled: Material and Process", Now through February 2011 at the Phoenix Airport Museum, Terminal 4, level 3.

"It's Elemental", Fine Crafts Exhibition, Coconino Center for the Arts, November 23-December 18, Opening reception November 20, 6:00-8:00 p.m. Fine Crafts Sale and Marketplace, December 4-5, 10:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. www.culturalpartners.org

IWC – July 21-24, 2011

IWC entry forms are available on the MSWG website.

COE Judging

“The Handweavers Guild of America, Inc., offers the Certificates of Excellence to its members to provide guidelines to evaluate individual skills, to encourage research and exploration in the fiber arts, and to recognize technically qualified weavers, spinners, dyers and basketmakers. Certificates of Excellence are awarded in Handweaving, Handspinning, Dyeing and Basketmaking.”

Our guild has volunteered to host the Certificate of Excellence judging for Handweaving in the fall of 2012. This is both a major responsibility and an awesome opportunity to have nationally-known judges spend time here, to get to see COE samples and how they are rated, and to be an important part of the larger weaving community. As a bonus, we may have a judge stay on to teach a workshop and perhaps even to serve as a juror for our fall show.

All of these good things will not happen without work on our part. This is a major undertaking for our group. Depending on the number of entrants, the judging could take up to five days. We will need to provide a space for the judging. We will also need homes where the judges can sleep – and since they will be working from early morning into the evening, a place to sleep will be more important to them than being entertained. We will need volunteers to act as scribes, walking with the judges and taking notes on their comments. (How often do you get to spend time with a nationally-known weaver and get insights like this?). Finally we will need to provide food, which can be coffee, tea, fruit, and doughnuts for breakfast, simple spreads for lunch, and one-pot meals like lasagna or chili for dinner – remember, we don't need to feed the whole guild, just the judges and perhaps the scribes.

Incidentally, all entrant identities are kept confidential, so no one will know who has passed until the judging is concluded.

The Board feels that the Guild is up to the job, and this is an opportunity that we should not miss. The COE is one of the most important and well-known programs offered by the Handweavers Guild of America, and we can play an important role in supporting it.

Workshops

Designing and Pattern Making for Your Handwoven Material by Wilda Postel. Jan 8, 15, 22, 29, 2011. 4 1/2-day classes where you will learn how to design your handwoven for specific garments, make patterns, learn structure and fiber, laying out and cutting, sewing and finishing. Classes will be held at Wilda's house, and the charge is a modest \$20.00 for all 4 classes.

Freeform Knitting by Sandy Evans. Feb. 9, 2011 from 9:00 – 3:00. Cost is \$25.00. Bring yarn from your stash, knitting needles, and a bag lunch.

Lace Knitting and Designing by AnneMarie Bellem will probably be in March. Details to follow.

Iridescence Weaving by Bobbi Erwin. April 14 & 15, 2011 from 9:00 – 4:00 at the Mountain Arts Gallery. 2-day workshop. Emphasis on color interaction more than structure, so it’s appropriate for beginners as well as experienced weavers. Bring a bag lunch. Those of you who have signed up please get your \$50.00 deposit to Barbara Albeck ASAP to hold your place in class. It is filling rapidly, so don't wait to sign up. Final cost to TBD but should be approx. \$75.00.

Please let Barbara Albeck know what workshops you would like to see given in the future. If you have a special talent, perhaps you'd like to offer a workshop. Barbara wants to know what you, as members, would like to learn - or teach. Please e-mail her at Barbalbeck@msn.com or call 520-831-3242. Thank you.

If a workshop is \$20.00 or less, you need to pay for it in full when you sign up. If the workshop is over \$20.00, you need to give a 50% deposit to hold your space in that workshop. Please make checks payable to MSWG.

January NEWSLETTER DEADLINE – December 25.

Send articles to Diane Braun, highlander1@highcastlecrafts.com.

Send address corrections/updates to Anne Marston at anne@annemarston.com or info@mtnspinweave.org.

December Birthdays

- December 3 - Marion Patterson
 Eleanor Bostwick
- December 11 – Gretchen Mummert
- December 13 – Barb Kiger
- December 20 – Wilda Postel

MSW 2009-10 Officers and Staff

- President-----Anne Marston
- First VP-----Laura Miner
- Second VP-----Kathy Kelly
- Secretary-----Marion Patterson
- Treasurer-----Debbie Allen
- Workshops-----Barbara Albeck

Support Staff

- Historian-----Marilyn Smith
- Hospitality-----Sandy Evans
- Library-----Janice Masson
- Membership-----Caralee Roberts
- Newsletter Editor-----Diane Braun
- Web Mistress-----Donna Meyer
- Parliamentarian-----Debbie Allen
- Publicity-----Nancy Ricketts
- Ways & Means-----Carma Koester

“BUILD IT AND THEY WILL COME”

This phrase from the movie *Field of Dreams* kept going through my mind as we planned and arranged our “Holiday Show & Sale”. We counted on your participation to promote it and to provide lots of wonderful fiber objects to sell. You did not disappoint us. The excitement built as beautiful fiber items poured in on the collection days. It took several cars to transport all the jam-packed bins of sale items to the site. Those who attended know how successful it was. The room was filled with color, texture, and pattern in a wide range of textile pieces plus the wood creations the woodturners had for sale. There were also three beautiful baskets of fiber items and a throw offered for raffle prizes.

YOU built it, and THEY did come. People lined up to come in early, and the traffic was steady all day. It was so crowded that we had to rethink the informal modeling and instead handled it by members trying on items with sales tags and wearing them a short time as they worked. Hundreds of people attended the sale and close to 20 membership forms were handed out.

Thirty members, including many new faces, submitted items to sell. Out of 928 items displayed we sold 238 items, including the guild’s cookbooks, totes, and sweatshirt. Most of the sold items were under \$50, a smaller portion between \$50 and \$100, and four items between \$100 and \$250. I will calculate some more statistics about types of items and price ranges in a later newsletter.

The estimated cash receipts total (including raffle & woodturners fee) for the MSWG was approximately \$8,800. The woodturners took in about \$2,200, which means the total income in 6 hours was \$11,000. We covered all of our expenses and made some money to support our guild programming. The final figures will be reported later after all transactions have cleared the bank. You will receive your checks for 80% of your sales total at the guild Christmas party or by mail if you cannot attend.

Yvonne Johnson and I want to thank each and every one of you who helped in ways too numerous to count. No job, large or small, seemed to daunt you. It was a pleasurable and rewarding experience to build this event with a group that works so well together.

Barb Kiger

Mountain Spinners and Weavers Guild Minutes of the General Meeting November 20, 2010

The meeting was called to order by: President Anne Marston at 9:00 a.m.

Visitors today: Sharon Taub

Minutes: The October minutes were approved: M/S/V, Yvonne Johnson/Jean Zinda/All

1st VP: Laura Miner: Today’s presentation will be Wendy Dittbrenner, a rancher. She will talk about raising alpacas and Merino sheep, their fiber, the process of preparing the fiber, and marketing it.

(1) December is the Christmas party/potluck.

(2) January is Michelle Johnson, a fiber artist who specializes in felting. She will bring samples of different types of felt and show a movie.

(3) February will be Jane Hoffmann, a tapestry weaver from the White Mountains. She will stay with friends in Prescott. The program will be: “Natural Dyes: A Tapestry Weaver’s Approach to a Full Color Palette”.

(4) March is the Silent Auction.

(5) April will be a weaving program by Bobbie Irwin.

(6) May's program will be given Diane Wilson. She is a basket weaver from Peoria. She will discuss basketry from her travels to Thailand.

2nd VP: Kathy Kelly: Our next event will be the Christmas party/potluck. It will be at the American Lutheran Church, on December 11, from 10:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. There will be door prizes and a gift exchange. The gift exchange is optional and is not a requirement for attending the event. Kathy asked for each member to donate a hand-crafted Christmas ornament which will be put in a brown paper bag at each place setting. There is a sign-up sheet in the back for set-up, clean-up, and ornaments. Ornaments need to be given to Kathy before the party. The next event will be the Silent Auction in March 2011.

Workshop Chair: Barbara Albeck:

(1) November 20 – “Spinning Faux Bouclé from Mohair Locks” with Ruth Greenspan was canceled due to the weather. It will be rescheduled at a later time.

(2) December 4 – Sharon McFeely will give a workshop on “Felted Fleece Slippers”.

(3) January (8, 15, 22, & 29) – Wilda Postel will do a series of workshops/classes on “Designing and Pattern Making for Your Handwoven Material”. The cost is \$20 for all 4 classes.

(4) January 14 – Debbie Allen will do a workshop on Kumihimo Braiding. Cost is \$20 plus \$10 materials fee. It will be at Debbie's home.

(5) February – Kim Fox will do a workshop on making jewelry from Kumihimo Braiding. The date and cost are TBD.

(6) February 9 – “Free-Form Knitting” with Sandy Evans. The cost is \$25.

(7) April 14 & 15, 2011 will be Bobbie Irwin on “Iridescence Weaving.” The initial deposit is \$50.

Special Interest Groups: Beading, Spinning, and UFO's (Unfinished Objects) are continuing to meet regularly. The “Sewing Handwovens” group meets on the 4th Friday, at 11:00 am, at Wilda's home. Annemarie Bellem is the leader of the new Lace Knitting Group which will meet on Thursdays or Fridays. Each person interested in the group needs to purchase the book Knitting Lace by Susanna Lewis. It is out of print but can be purchased on Amazon. The goal of this new group is to learn lace techniques; beginners as well as advanced knitters are welcome. There is a sign-up sheet in back.

Sunshine: Mary Bricker – Anne announced that Alice Perkins' husband passed away

Announcements & Mail: Anne – (1) the collection cup will be passed around. If you forgot your name tag, you need to put in a quarter (\$.25). (2) Sacking needles can be found at Studio Three. (3) Diane Braun has the name and telephone number of someone who has a large 1890's spinning wheel for sale if anyone is interested. (4) Lillian Hildebrand's husband passed away.

Hospitality: Sandy Evans and Susan Swiggers are the hospitality hostesses. Today's refreshments were provided by Sandy Evans, Oleta Askerman, and Wilda Postel.

Historian: Marilyn Smith – Pictures of the Holiday Sale are on the back table for viewing.

Librarian: Margaret Espinoza – Margaret announced that her husband has been transferred, and she will have to resign her position at the end of the year. Janice Masson volunteered for the position.

Membership: Caralee Roberts – New members can order name tags: \$2.50 for regular name tag pins and \$5.00 for magnetic name tags.

Newsletter: Diane Braun – As a regular reminder all inputs for the newsletter are due the Saturday following the Guild meeting. New members need to send her their birthdate.

Parliamentarian: Debbie Allen – not present

Publicity: Margaret Espinoza – (see above) Nancy Ricketts volunteered for this position.

Ways and Means: Carma Koester – Today's raffle is a large basket donated by Anne Marston and Carma Koester. We also have totes, Tee shirts, sweatshirts, cookbooks, and other items.

Old Business: Anne Marston – Two items for discussion.

Yavapai College (YC) Gallery Show, November 5 to Dec 1, 2010: Pick up is 3:00 pm on December 1, and members need to pick up their submissions promptly, as YC is setting up for another show the next day.

The Holiday Sale, November 13, 2010: Barb Kiger and Yvonne Johnson thanked members for all their hard work, especially Margaret Espinoza for her good job with publicity. 31 members brought items for sale, 247 items were sold, and the best sellers were in the \$20 - \$30 category. Total money intake was \$8,800. Once

expenses are totaled, taxes paid, credit card fees calculated, and all checks have cleared the bank, checks will be issued to each participant.

New Business: Anne Marston – (a) There was discussion about making the Holiday Sale an annual event. Kathy Kelly made a motion to hold the Holiday Sale next year, and Annemarie Bellem seconded it. (There was a lot more discussion about costs to guild, Fashion Show conflict, and cost of room: \$714 this year). Kathy Kelly amended motion: Should we reserve the room at the Hassayampa Hotel for 2011. Barbara Kiger seconded the motion. The membership voted yes.

(b) Anne Marston: Had contacted the Veterans Hospital for a possible charitable event for the guild next year. The hospital needs lap robes, walker bags, and wheelchair bags and would appreciate the donations. Jeanne Zinda volunteered to act as chairman of this committee. Carma Koester will coordinate the Charitable Knits days at the Good Yarn and help with the project. Kathy Kelly made a motion for the Guild to take on the volunteer project at the Veterans Hospital for 2011. Sharon Travis seconded the motion. The membership voted yes.

Other discussions:

(a) New Member introductions: Linda Dettman, Wendy Dittbrenner, Linda Kearney, Alice Perkins, Jill Suydam, Dian Moore, Susie LaFuze, and Fredrica Van Sant.

(b) Discussion about the decision to waive participation fees for the Holiday Show, suggesting it encourages more members' participation. Mary Jane Hopf made a motion to waive the up-front participation fees for upcoming events. Gisela Gminder seconded the motion. The membership voted yes.

(c) Candiss Cole, juror for the YC Show, invited us to see her studio. Date and time will be discussed later.

Show & Tell:

Janice Masson: Rigid heddle loom made of wood; Sharon Travis: Cream Alpaca Easter egg-dyed, spun fractal; Nancy Wilson: Over-dyed "muddy brown" skeins; Shelly Leichter: brought gecko bookmarks for sale from the Holiday Sale; Kathy Kelly: 3 skeins handspun (1) Merino silk / spun + Navajo plied, (2) fiber from Estes Park Fiber Show and (3) Northern Lights – Navajo plied; Mary Kelly: 3 pairs of socks, sweater knitted from wool from Maine; Sandy Evans: free-form purse, a sample of what she will be teaching in February; Diane Braun: 2 knitted hats, one slip-stitch knit and one hat made of hemp.

Motion to close meeting: M/S/V, Luida Gottlieb/Barb Kiger/All.

Meeting adjourned at 10:10 a.m. Secretary: Laura Miner for Marion Patterson

Today's program: Wendy Dittbrenner, a Prescott Valley alpaca and Merino sheep rancher.

Happy Holidays!

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Studio Three would like to wish all of you a very Happy Holiday season.

Our annual drawing for gift certificates will begin on November 30. You do not need to purchase a thing; just come in, and sign up. You could win a \$20.00, \$10.00, or \$5.00 gift certificate to Studio Three.

Also for those of you who purchased the Anne Dixon Handweaver's Pattern Directory Book, there are some errors. We have the corrections, if you would like to stop by and get a copy.

Our new class schedule will be up on our web page. We are excited about offering some new classes!

As always, the Knitting Nanny is here on Thursday from 1:00 to 3:00. There is no charge.

P.S. There seems to be a rumor that Studio Three is closing. This tale is totally false and groundless! We have heard it enough times now that we thought it prudent to let all the guilds know that this is not true. It is business as usual. New classes are forming and scheduled though next year. We thank you for your ongoing support! Hopefully this will nip the rumor in the bud.

Conne and Patti

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