



Guild Reports

SPRING 2016

Weaving Guilds of Oregon

www.wegoregon.org

AURORA COLONY HANDSPINNER'S GUILD - CARRIE ROHN

October – We didn't have a formal program but lots of time was spent talking about the fiber challenge for the coming months. Those who wished to participate were given 6 oz. of alpaca to clean, dye, spin, felt, knit, crochet or weave into an article to be presented at the February meeting. We were also offered sari silk in long threads or thrums to add to our projects.

November and December – No meetings were held.

January – Faye Frei lead a participatory discussion of creative ideas for knitting where members cast on, knit some, then passed it on to someone else and at times walked around knitting and chatting.

February – There was a full meeting room for the presentation of articles made with alpaca and silk for this year's fiber challenge. There were lots of skeins of yarn, some partially knit shawls, lots of finished knit projects, some woven, a felted bowl and a felted hat. There was even a knitted flat rat. What else would you do with your left over yarn?

March – Linda Fox, from Oak Knoll Farm in Dallas, OR gave a talk about how she developed her farm. They now have 50 cashmere goats, 20 Shetland sheep, a guard dog and 1 guard llama. Processing the cashmere can be a pain but they get 10 to 20 pounds of fiber a year.

Special Events

Annual Workshops – Barb Quinn taught beginning spinning, Terry Blackwell had a group decorating silk scarves with sharpies and alcohol, she also taught how to weave an egg basket. Paula Shull taught how to spin silk and Sue Clark taught intermediate spinning. Many others chatted and spun as they kept an eye on what was coming out of the classes.

Christmas Party – We held our annual party, pot luck dinner and gift exchange. One steal and the gift is yours. The food was great and the party was a fun way to get to know new guild members.

Antique Spinning Wheel Showcase – Over 200 visitors attended the 34th showcase which took place on the somewhat soggy 2nd weekend of March. There were 30 wheels with costumed spinners in the museum, angora rabbits, young lambs and baby alpacas for sale out in the sheds. Visitors learned to card, spin on drop spindles or wheels, do kumihimo weaving. They also took pictures at the selfie stations along the way.

CENTRAL OREGON SPINNERS AND WEAVERS – MARY WONSER

COSW meets on the third Wednesday of the month in Redmond and on the fourth Saturday of the month in Sisters. Our new Saturday group is doing well with good attendance and new members. We have several study groups ongoing: Spinning, Weaving and Tattling. The weaving study group just finished with overshoot and is starting block weaves and profile drafts in April. This summer we will host a natural dyeing workshop with Francisco Bautista from Oaxaca.

October 2015: Our program was a review and discussion of the spinning aspect of the Fall Retreat workshop featuring Sara Lamb. Guild participants joined in a "show and tell" from the workshop.

November 2015: We had our annual Holiday Party/Potluck. Members showed their "challenge" results which was mug holders. In an effort to use less Styrofoam, plastic or paper we encouraged everyone to bring their own mugs in their custom designed original holders.

Items were collected for the Bethlehem Inn which is a homeless shelter in Bend. This is a yearly project to donate hats, mittens, scarves, jackets etc.

December 2015: No meeting.

January 2016: Explored small portable looms. Members brought small looms such as inkle, pin, tapestry, cardboard, card and items made on them. "Anything holding warp under tension is a loom".

One of our ongoing projects is a collaboration between spinners and weavers. Michele Long, a spinner and Linda Gettmann, a weaver, were the first to finish a project. Linda wove two scarves using Michele's handspun yarn. This project will be one of the featured departments at the County Fair this year - showcasing collaborative projects.

Patty Huffer, program chairman passed out posters to be distributed throughout the communities of our 2016 meetings schedule and programs.

February 2016: The challenge for 2016 is to create something out of five colors which were chosen randomly. For the program Gillian Burton and Kathi Keller led a discussion of techniques for designing.

On February 16-18 we had a Crackle workshop with Susan Wilson. 17 members attended and came away energized with visions and ideas. We met at the Diocese of Powell Butte a fairly new retreat center with wonderful facilities.

March 2016: The program was focused around Central Oregon Sheep Breeds and Fibers and their various characteristics. Kathy Tovey was our speaker. Kathy showed many different samples of weaving using various types of wool.

On March 26 there is a Fiber Market Day in Prineville. It is a one day event and our guild will have a booth with information, demos and items for sale.

We meet the second Tuesday of each month from September to June in The Dalles Library Meeting Room at 10:00 a.m. Each business meeting is followed by a program then lunch together at a local restaurant for those who wish to go. There are 35 members on the roster with about 20 attending our meetings. Our spinners meet every Tuesday at different places, in doors and out. They demonstrate whenever asked and are popular with the county fairs. The weaving group meets every Friday at “Judy’s Place” in Odell, Oregon. There is a weaving study group that meets weekly.

October: We draw a name for our \$150 Guild Scholarship to be used during the year on any fiber-related workshop or class. Elsa Weiss won our Guild scholarship the previous year. She reported on the workshop with Judith McKenzie on exotic Fibers held in Judith’s new studio in Washington. Elsa learned many new things about fibers and spinning them.

November:

December: Our Christmas luncheon was held at a restaurant this year with the silent auction as usual. Everyone is expected to bring something for the auction AND to take something home. Again, more money was raised this year than any other. The auction seems to grow every year, and is our one fund raiser.

January: Marion Dyche challenged us to bring any 3 fiber-related things we would grab if we had to evacuate our homes. Items were shared and explained. Knitting needles and hand spun yarns were essential as they represented something to do to pass time, and they were very portable. Drop spindles heirloom quilts, linens and knitted items were very valued.

February: Arlene Zornes shared some wonderful information and collages she created from photographs about her Indian heritage. Her grandmother had Pomo Indian background which led to Arlene’s interest in the local history of Mendocino County in California. This led to art work with collages, greeting cards and lovely stories that go with them.

March: Mary Lou Perry and Anne Kramer shared their experiences on a “Knittin” cruise to Norway Iceland, Shetland Islands and Scotland with a slide presentation and samples of the fiber they purchased. What a trip!

EUGENE WEAVER'S GUILD - SHANNON SUTTNER

The Eugene Weavers' Guild meets on the fourth Monday of the month, September – November and January- May at the Eugene Textile Center .

In **November** Nancy Hoskins gave a talk on 'Creative Control of Color'. She used slides and samples to help us develop an understanding of color interactions.

Also in November we hold our annual holiday sale the weekend after Thanksgiving.

We don't meet in December.

January's program was by Ruth McGregor, the editor of The Complex Weavers Journal. She gave us a behind-the-scenes look at both the magazine and the organization and even told us how to submit an article.

Susan Wilson's **February** program Classic Crackle and More was a lead into Multi-shaft Crackle two-day workshop. There was also an afternoon seminar on designing crackle with eight harnesses or more.

In **March**, Corriene Geddes spoke about Rigid Heddle Weaving-Beyond Plain Weave. She has woven on rigid heddle looms for more than forty years and spoke about the history and versatility of the looms.

Our **April** program will be presented by our Weave Structures Study Groups.

In **May** we will have a special program with John Mullarkey and Daryl Lancaster in a 'Battle of the Bands'. John's specialty is card weaving and Daryl prefers inkles.

In **June** we have a picnic.

We are currently putting together a celebration of our 70th year anniversary in 2017. There are plans for a perpetual calendar with woven samples and a display of members' weavings from throughout our history.

Our web-site is up and running. You can *read all about it* at **EugeneWeavers.com**.

Prior to the first official meeting of our newly formed guild we discussed the idea of forming a new weaving guild during lunches on Fridays at our studio, Judy's Place, in Odell, OR. The name for our guild, dues, and meeting date were settled. Our guild name is Gorge Handweavers Guild and the dues are \$10.00 per year. We will meet on the third Friday of each month, September to June, at the studio.

September 18, 2015

We have 24 members in our new guild.

Our meeting Program was given by Kathy Semmes. She described to us her process of designing and making her daughter's wedding dress and silk shawl. Both were beautiful and very elegant.

We discussed and worked out details of our upcoming workshop and lecture to be held in March 2016 with JoAnn Bachelder.

Special Event: Seven of our members participated in the ANWG retreat in Bend.

October 16, 2015

Workshop Guidelines for our guild were discussed and edited.

Kathy Semmes will write up a grant proposal for an ANWG sponsored guild workshop next October. The instructor is Jette Vander Mermeiden. We chose a workshop entitled Linen Weaving.

Special Event: Our guild hosted the WEGO meeting on October 3rd at our studio.

November 20, 2015

We decided to have a private sale of equipment, yarn, and books at our February meeting. 20% of all proceeds will go to the guild.

Sue Binford suggested at each meeting we have a "Tips and Tricks" topic. As a group we would share our experience with and solutions to a typical problem.

Special Event: Several of our members participated in a fiber arts show and sale during November at the Columbia Art Gallery in Hood River.

December meeting was canceled due to weather.

January 15, 2016

Our guild membership is up to 28.

"Tips and Tricks": Ruth Dye shared her technique of repairing a warp end by using a 1/2 hitch around the weft threads after threading back into the weaving.

February 19, 2016

Our program was an equipment and yarn sale. It was a successful event that netted \$125.80.

March 11, 2016

Our program was a lecture entitled "Color" by JoAnn Bachelder. JoAnn talked about the color wheel systems and yarn color combinations that work when weaving. Many woven samples were shown to illustrate her points. Our guild's first sponsored workshop, "Towels: A Gamp that Transends Tradition", was held March 12-14. We all agreed that JoAnne Bachelder is an excellent weaving teacher. All participants have woven a useful gamp to help them design their own towels in the future. She explained the subject matter clearly with many woven samples that illustrated the topic.

Regular Meetings held April-October and December social. Other meetings and activities as requested

The twin themes for the 2015 – 2016 spring/summer seasons were reaffirmed in spring, 2015 with meetings and activities designed to reflect those themes.

Themes: to share information and techniques and raise consciousness of the various textile arts in the community, through the idea of “everyone teaches, everyone learns”; and community outreach by participating in community events, fairs, and festivals.

Our specific focus was to explore various dyeing techniques and to visit each others' studios to share information and inspiration.

In **June**, 2015 we learned how to do ECO DYE on silk using plant materials and natural dyes at Kim Thompson's home in North Bend. Additional sessions were held over the summer to further explore this technique.

In **July** we traveled to Coquille to try random space dyeing on cotton or cellulose yarn using Procion dyes. The challenge was to create something using that yarn to show in spring, 2016. At our meeting on April 16, several projects were shared using the dyed cotton in towels and in scarves. We may repeat this workshop again as more members are interested in learning the process.

July was also busy with members exhibiting at the Coos County Fair. Guild sponsored scholarships helped two members attend classes, which resulted in presentations to the guild on what was learned.

August took us to another member's home for an airbrush demonstration. The 'white' sheets used in the demonstration using fiber reactive dyes soon became vibrant with greens, blues, yellows for one set and red, light browns and orange for another. We then learned how to cut fiber strips on the bias to weave into place mats and rugs; quite beautiful both on the loom and off.

Also in August, several members participated in the Blackberry Arts Festival generating great sales and lots of interest from the demonstrations and two new members. We also continued learning to dye using indigo and other natural dyes on both fabric and yarn, and experimented with using resist techniques to create shibori patterns.

September took us back to Bandon to visit another member's studio where we learned how to dye cloth using resist materials and dyna-flo dyes. Two more festivals again provided opportunities for guild demonstrations and sales of our handwovens; we added more funds to our treasury.

October presented an opportunity to participate in the Artists and Crafters Flea Market in Coquille. This was a successful event for buying, selling and trading all manner of craft materials. A second Flea market is being planned for this spring. Members also began exploring programs for this (2016) season, including presenting some beginning weaving classes for our new members. A goal for the year is to produce a “tips and tricks” booklet for members.

KLAMATH SPINNERS AND WEAVER' S GUILD – KATHY NELSON

October: Supported spindle spinning: Guild member Teresa Y. demonstrated several types of supported drop spindles and distributed them for a short lesson on how to use a drop spindle. The different types of spindles included turkish spindles, hybrid spindle, metal tipped, Tibetan (twist off), Tibetan (Lucy Pi), Bead spindle, Takli, Spanish Peacock, and phang. Members were offered a choice of silk or wool to spin. We all had great fun trying this new to most of us technique. Also working out sharing details for our Guild Facebook page “Klamath Spinners and Weavers”. Notable show and share items included knitted knockers made by our double mastectomy survivor Karen.

November: Spinning bast fibers: Guild member Margie B. talked about what she learned in her Black Sheep Gathering class on Bast fibers (supported by a WeGO scholarship). She learned about the cultivation and spinning of flax, ramie and other fibers. This sparked a great discussion about the flax industry in Oregon, learned in part from the papers Darlene W. sent us that were prepared by Nancy Hoskins. Thank you Darlene and Nancy!

December : We decided to exchange handmade potholders instead of Christmas ornaments this December (and cookies) . Lots of variety in the pot holders.

January: We were awarded and announced our ANWG grant for our September Retreat cosponsored with Rogue Valley Handweavers. Guild members Sharon and Kathy shared their samples and insights gleaned from the Robin Spady Extreme Warp Makeover workshop in Bend last September (one helped by a WeGO scholarship). It was fun to compare as Sharon did the lace threading and Kathy did overshot. We looked at our samples side by side and discussed our favorites. Sharon also announced our sock KAL. Outside the meeting, 1860's days was held at the Klamath County Museum and 4 Guild members were in attendance and costume , presenting spinning (including Great Wheel), weaving , elements of 1860's dress, and assorted other items of interest.

February: Guild member Sharon did a sock talk for more info on our optional sock KAL. She brought books and talked about different methods. In the weeks after the meeting she emailed encouragement and shared pictures of progress as the participants worked along. About 10 people participated. Also our felter , Liz H. had an exhibit and sales of her felted wall hangings. We lost one longtime guild member (Karla Lockwood) this month.

March: Guild member Liz taught us about colcha embroidery, a technique originated in New Mexico by the Spaniards who settled there. It involved embroidering with naturally dyed and singles spun wool (churra) on a loose tabby- originally wool and later cotton cloth. The original purpose was bedspreads, which evolved into altar cloths, and has been used pictorially to represent “maps” of local regions. Liz made up samples with cloth squares and printed designs and naturally dyed wool to embroider with. Excellent presentation: history, books, project!!

In addition, we launched into a Saturday “sheep to yarn” study with a demonstration of shearing and fleece skirting and sharing of a variety of “wool washes”. We received a section a certain fleece and an assignment to try the different washes to see and document how they compared. We also received a variety of other “field” fleece large samples to play with. Very fun on a windy day!!

Also in March, we concluded our Sock KAL, which actually included some handspun and some not, some knitted and some crocheted, some naturally dyed and some not. Sharon our leader sent us a nice keychain with the kitchener stitch written on it which is quite helpful! Some photos are posted on our website.

Notable show and share included delectable bath towels woven from the Lunatic fringe bath towel kit in sustainable US cotton yarns ... Very nice, thick, and cushy!!

PORTLAND HANDWEAVER'S GUILD – JANIS JOHNSON

Portland Handweavers Guild holds two general meetings on the second Thursday of each month, one in the morning and one in the evening. Usually the same program is presented twice, with a few members attending both meetings. Meetings include Show & Tell, announcements, and access to the guild's library. Morning meetings are, recently, followed by a group who bring a small project to work on. There is still interest in a SAORI group, some very interested in the clothing aspect.

PHG has created a Google Groups forum. One must be a PHG member to join. Invitations were sent to all members; 84 have joined as of this date. The purpose is to provide a way for our members to communicate on weaving/fiber related topics. People are asking advice and sharing information. It's exciting to have this started! With our weavers spread over a large area and coming to different meetings, this is a way we can all connect and learn from each other. Study groups will form, we can poll our members for their input on Program and Workshop topics, and generally provide a way to connect and converse.

Anita Osterhaug presented "Behind the Scenes at Handwoven Magazine" in November. Quite entertaining.

In **December**, we played the Weavers Design Game: Using Chance to Spur Creativity. Ann Sutton wrote up the idea. We made up cards a few years back and played. It was very well received so we did it again. We have sets of the cards in our library check out. The purpose of the game is to produce, by chance, unexpected combinations of technique, weave, color, finishing etc., and to create a problem-solving attitude to design challenges. It also provides a way for members to get to know each other better.

Monica Setziol-Phillips presented "One Weaver's World: the Art of Monica Setziol-Phillips" in January. She combines wood carving with weaving. She has explored soumak extensively saying "what if" and shared some stunning work with her techniques. Monica has collected folk tales about spinning and weaving; she shared a few of those stories and absolutely enchanted us.

In **February**, Susan Wilson gave a program and 2 day workshop on "Classic Crackle and More". Her program was a prerequisite for a Friday afternoon lecture on Crackle on more than 4 shafts. A Crackle study group is in the works.

In **March**, Joanne and Steve Duffin shared a very passionate program on "The Art of Kente Cloth".

Thanks to the grant from WeGO, we are having the first in a series of classes for New and Returning weavers, well, anyone actually. The first class is "Let's Get Warped" by Diane McKinnon, one of our members, and an excellent teacher.

Members are preparing for the Spring Sale, returning to the Convention Center with "The Gathering of the Guilds". The Fall Sale will continue at Multnomah Arts Center in November.

Portland Handweavers Guild meetings are open to the public so drop by if you're in town on the second Thursday of a month (other than July and August). Upcoming activities are listed at portlandhandweaversguild.org.

ROGUE VALLEY HANDWEAVERS GUILD – GLORIA WAY

A joint committee had been formed with the Klamath Guild to develop and prepare a proposal for one of the ANWG grants. It was agreed that the proposal would be for a retreat/workshop with classes in weaving and dyeing. The grant was awarded in January, and plans have been finalized for a 2-day retreat on Sept. 17-18, 2016. It will be held at Greensprings Inn, located in the mountains on one of the highways between Ashland and Klamath Falls. Workshops will be taught by Suzie Liles and Janis Thompson.

In **October** a 3-day beginning weaving workshop was held in Jacksonville that resulted in five new weavers.

Programs at meetings have been varied, interesting, and hopefully inspiring. In October a “revised version” of Ann Sutton’s “Design Card game” provided some good small group interaction, and discussion about the weaving design process. Other topics have included Waffle Weave; Double-Faced Weaves; and a comprehensive discussion of finishing techniques for a variety of fibers.

On the day of the Fall WeGO meeting in Odell, four members of RVHG volunteered at the Talent Harvest Festival with a loom, spinning wheels, a lace pillow and the ever-popular 7-stand braid project for children (and adults).

Recently the guild voted to amend the Bylaws to hold regular meetings in June. Our guild “year” is now September through June.

SALEM FIBERARTS GUILD – DORALD STOLTZ

October – Anita Osterhaug, editor of Handwoven magazine, was our guest speaker, talking about her weaving history and how the magazine works.. We also shared the success of our annual sale earlier in the month.

November – This was Robin Spady month for us. Robin presented the meeting program, talking about weaving tips in the morning and four-shaft weaving in the afternoon. She also gave us a three-day workshop on weaving twills and two evening seminars.

December – We had our annual Christmas potluck with no program – just time to visit and enjoy. In lieu of a gift exchange, members brought donations for the local food bank. Guild members also participated in the Willamette Heritage Center's annual Magic at the Mill event, demonstrating weaving and offering a booth selling items woven by guild members.

January – The meeting theme was All Things Rugs. Members brought examples of rugs they had made, or special ones they had acquired, and shared techniques and hints on rug weaving.

February – Following tradition, our meeting was dye day, led by Penny Unverzagt. Members gathered in the studio to dye yarn and fibers for future projects. Then the studio was closed down for the rest of the month so the new carpeting could be installed. Yea!

March – Barbara Setsu-Pickett presented a program titled Velvet: A World-Wise Passion, followed by a trunk show of her shibori silk scarves.

April – Our April program featured Linda Hendrickson telling us all about ply-splitting and cord- making.

May -- The guild meeting will be folded into the annual Willamette Heritage Center Sheep-to-Shawl event. Members will weave, spin, card, etc., in the Dye House for visitors, and also enjoy the many activities of the day. There will be a potluck in the late morning.

June – The proposed program for June is a field trip to Atiyeh Bros. rug repair and cleaning facility in Portland.

Special Events

The guild invited five students from the WHC's Teen Interpretative Program to a series of weaving lessons. Each student completed two projects and one student is now a participating guild member.

SATURDAY HANDWEAVER'S GUILD – MARY PORTINGA

The Saturday Handweavers Guild meets on the second Saturday of each month, September through June, generally in the Medford Library, but moving to the Jacksonville Library in the months of May and June. We have been thrilled to see our membership grow over the last year, and it is always a pleasure to welcome new members and new weavers.

October – Ronna Smith-Hileman gave a very informative presentation entitled “Oh My Aching Back” with hints and tips for preventing aches and injuries.

Also in October, the guild organized a very successful one-day workshop by Donna Crispin. The attendees had a great time, and all took home a beautifully finished wild “potato basket.”

November – This month we had a guest speaker, Jeanne Carver from the Imperial Ranch in Shaniko, Oregon, who gave a fascinating presentation about the history and development of the ranch, and the breeding of the Columbia sheep. Jeanne shared how she found spinners, weavers and knitters to produce fine hand-crafted articles, and the production of wool sweaters designed by Ralph Lauren for the US Olympic Team.

December – This was the month for our holiday potluck and “Gift the Guild” silent auction. Many wonderful items were donated, and our generous bidders raised funds for the guild.

January – Guild member Dawn Wille did a short review of Robin Spady’s “Extreme Warp Makeover” workshop (which took place in April 2015).

February – This month’s presentation was “Painting on the Loom” by Dorothy McKinley who showed several methods of warp painting on the loom with various paints and dyes, and the results that she achieved. The Guild held a drawing for scholarship awards. Each of four winners received a check for \$100 to help defray the costs of a study program of their choice.

March – Kathy Fennell gave a most inspiring presentation on Woven Shibori Crimp Cloth, using methods developed by Dianne Totten. Everyone was fascinated by the amazing results she obtained using these techniques.

Also in March – Jason Collingwood came to teach a 3-end block weave with shaft switching rug workshop, March 18 through 20. We were glad to be able to include some guests from other guilds. Grateful thanks are due to our workshop coordinator, Deb Keberle for the huge amount of work that she put into this event to make it so successful and enjoyable, and also to treasurer Katy Mallams for all her efforts. Jason is a great teacher and we all learned a great deal, even though our brain cells felt very challenged at times!

April – Cindie Kitchin will present a hands-on Bow Weaving program.

Our two study groups this year are: Rug Weaving (to prepare for the Jason Collingwood workshop) and Creating Handwoven Garments.

Each year our members donate handwoven items to benefit Friends of the Animal Shelter. These items raised \$600 for FOTAS at the Puss ‘n Boots Ball in October.

This year’s guild challenge, to be presented in June, is “Weave from Your Family Tree.”

WEBFOOT WEAVERS – CHRISTINA SCOTT

October found the Webfoot Weavers learning and practicing our Kumihimo skills. Many members have dabbled in this weaving method in the past and brought lots of good ideas to the table. Beads continue to be a focus in our guild and several members have taken the Kumihimo style into jewelry.

November was a business meeting and a demonstration on Chinese knots. Following the demo, we practiced tying Chinese knots for jewelry and belts.

December meeting was our usual holiday luncheon at a local restaurant but with a twist. The members engaged in a cookie & recipe exchange, but with the challenge of cookies made with no eggs. The restaurant owners were so intrigued with the idea that they even sampled all our cookies.

The **January** business meeting was devoted to planning the year 2016. The budget was hammered out. Programs were planned. Then, for a fun program, we experimented in ribbon weaving. Each of us made our own mug using a favorite color scheme. Compliments go to us all.

No meeting in February.

March brought us together to learn about spinning and how to care for the wheels. Members received individual instruction on their own personal wheels by resident experts. A discussion about various spinning methods for different types of yarn was especially interesting. Members also acquired information on methods to change undesirable results.

Members also decided to continue with the UFO parties held once a month in addition to the regular meetings and programs.