



Anchorage Weavers & Spinners Guild

October 2014

Issue 1

NEXT GATHERING: Saturday, October 11, 2014
www.anchorageweavespin.org/

President's Message

A new year, lots of new skills to be learned!

Time to put away the lawn mower, bring out the snow removal equipment and blow off any accumulated summer dust from your loom or wheel. The Guild Season is in full swing.

Our first meeting of the season had an unprecedented 70 participants! Beyond surprise, I was stunned when Farrah quietly penned the final tally on my agenda. I could have fainted, if not from the room heat, from your collective energy and enthusiasm. It's going to be a great year.

In September, our rigid heddle weavers had a splendid opportunity to weave and learn more about rigid heddles from instructor Liz Gipson. I encourage all those who participated to bring their finished weavings to a show and tell opportunity this year and share your experience with us all.

This month, we will be sponsoring well-known weaver, Heather Winslow, for a 3-day workshop in garment construction. Even if you will not be participating in this workshop, you can still learn more about her, and her process of creating handwoven garments, during an evening presentation. Check the calendar for time, date and location.

Both of these workshops, and others in the making, should at the very least, prove to inspire and challenge us as artisans. Determined to create, impossible not to, we are but a mirror to the greatest contribution of our resolve – our individuality.

I look forward to our October meeting and your creative endeavors.

Pamela M. Grefsrud, President, AWSG

UPCOMING EVENTS

2014

October 11, 2014 Fashion Show Committee Meeting

October 24-26, Heather Winslow Workshop

December 5-7, Spinning Workshop with Amelia Garipoli

2015

April 19, 2015, Fashion Show (See criteria and submission details inside.)

Check the website for full calendar--www.anchorageweavespin.org

Alaska State Fair 2014

Every year our guild sponsors Fair Prizes for entrants into the State Fair. Here are the winners of this year's prizes:

Lynx Mullen – Purple Woven Scarf

Laurie Sitkiewicz – Chenille Woven Rug and Bench Seat

Carol Johnson – Qiviut Yarn

Laurie Sitkiewicz – Spot Spun Merino/Silk in Green/Yellow/Teal

Sarah Robicheaux – Brown Alpaca Yarn

Thanks to Jude Johnson for being our Alaska State Fair Coordinator. She states that changes are in process for next year, so stay tuned for further information.

Denaina Sale Update - 2014 Anchorage Arts & Craft Emporium

The Arts & Crafts Emporium is Anchorage's premier showcase for Alaskan artists and crafters to display and sell their Alaska-made arts and crafts to a broad base of customers during the holiday season. The 2014 Arts & Crafts Emporium will be held in the new Dena'ina Civic Convention Center on Saturday, November 22, 2014 from 10:00AM to 6:00PM and Sunday, November 23, 2014 from 11:00AM to 5:00PM. Admission is free.

Hopefully, you have already begun making and setting aside items for sale at this event. A wide variety of woven, knitted and felted items sold in past years, but certainly anything that has a Christmas theme sells well. Last year, we sold woven garments, scarves, shawls, dolls, pillows, tea towels and table linens, and bookmarks. We had fiber related tools, weaving "kits" and Christmas ornaments. We had handspun yarn of all types and lovely handspun knitted items. Typical prices ranged from \$5 to \$195. Our Guild Booth typically sees a lot of visitors. Last year was the first time we accepted credit cards and we saw a good jump in our sales as a result.

Inventorying and Tagging your Items for Sale: Please fill out an inventory sheet (attached) for all items that you want to offer for sale at the booth. Members should price their own

items (please price in whole dollars). The Guild will deduct a commission of 15% of the price of the item when it sells. You will notice that the inventory sheet asks you to assign a “tag number” as well as a description of the item and a price. The “tag number” should be your initials and a number, for example, “NEP-1, NEP-2” etc. Please remember to keep a copy of the inventory sheet for yourself.

You will need to attach two tags to each item for sale: A small “sales” tag showing the “tag number” and the price (from your inventory sheet) as well as a very brief description of the item, such as “scarf” or “tea towel.” A larger or custom tag or label for the customer, describing the item in detail, including the fiber content, for example, “scarf woven from hand spun alpaca wool,” and giving the name of the artist, the tag number and price, and general care/cleaning instructions.

Important Dates:

October 11, 2014 - Drop off items for sale at the regular Saturday Guild meeting

November 8, 2014 - Drop off items for sale at the regular Saturday Guild meeting

November 19, 2014 – Absolute Last Day to submit items for sale to Nicole.

November 21, 2014 – Booth set-up. Time to be determined.

November 22-23, 2014 – Anchorage Arts & Crafts Emporium at the Dena’ina Center

December 13, 2014 – Checks will be issued for sold items; unsold items will be returned to members.

QUESTIONS? Call Nicole Putnam, 563-9360 or nickp1@gci.net



Date: April 19, 2015

Location: Museum in the Auditorium

Time: 6:30 PM

Cost: \$10.00 per person

Check out our new fashion show logo! We created this to begin to brand the event. Planning is well underway and everyone has a part to play in the event’s success.

Weavers and Spinners—be ready to make the commitment in support of a successful show. Consider the challenge when planning for the fashion show because the event can be created by a dynamic duo.

The committee is looking for scarves -- handwoven or handknit from your handspun yarn. The scarves will be a gift for the volunteer models that we will be using for the fashion show. Jean Truscott will be happy to collect the scarves at guild meetings between now and April.

The Fashion Show Committee will meet immediately following the Guild Meetings each month in the Atrium of the Museum. If you would like to be part of this enthusiastic committee please join us!

We have the following Committees Chairs:

- Photography: Gwen Matthews
- Models and Dressers: Julie Carter
- Music: Julie Carter
- Catering: Brenda Salario
- Garment Screeners: Sherry Rogers, Annita Magee, Jean Truscott
- Flowers and Decorations: Farrah Weinert, Marilyn Barker
- Programs/Invitations/Marketing/Advertising/Publicity: Anne Brooks
- Invites for participation to other guilds: Annita Magee and Wendy Craytor
- Grant Proposal to ANWG: Wendy Craytor

It is very exciting and I look forward to seeing everyone each month! Submitted by Clydene Fitch.

PROGRAMS

October 11, 2014, 11 a.m. to 12 p.m.

Laura Viada’s Thick ‘n Thin Weaving Workshop

Jane Parkhust, a self-proclaimed beginning weaver, shares her beginning weaver perspective from Laura Viada’s Thick ‘n Thin Weaving Workshop. Thick ‘n Thin, sometimes known as Diversified Plain Weave, is a wonderful and versatile weave structure. It presents a wealth of design possibilities and produces a fabric that is perfect for absolutely any use.

Jane will share results of how she learned to work with this structure in planning projects and creating drafts to weave a thick ‘n thin sampler. See how she learned how to weave this structure while exploring the effect of different yarn and color choices on the final product.

WORKSHOPS

Turn Your Handwoven Magic Into Fabric Heather Winslow Workshop

October 24, 25 & 26, 2014

Heather Winslow is coming to Anchorage! She will present a three day workshop titled, **Fiber, Fabric, Fashion – The Evolution of a Handwoven Garment**. The workshop will be held at the UAA Diplomacy Building (parking and the mountain views are free).

As of 9.15.14, there are 15 registrants for the workshop (maximum of 18). The supply list will be distributed via email on 9.27.14. Heather notes that the fabric needed for the workshop does not have to be handwoven.

Thanks to Wendy for identifying a slide projector! We are

in need of 5 sewing machines (thanks for volunteering yours, Anne). Does anyone have a garment rack?

Heather has agreed to make an evening presentation for us on Friday, October 24, 2014. She will lecture on Theo Moorman inlay adapted to clothing. Heather specializes in this technique and has authored a book on the subject. Watch for an InfoBlast with the venue information. I love to interpret what I see around me either directly or in an abstract way through color or texture, often using the Theo Moorman inlay technique of weaving.” Heather is the author of the book, **MORE ON MOORMAN: Theo Moorman Inlay Adapted to Clothing.**

Send your deposit of \$100 to Jenny Miller, 8560 Jupiter Drive, Anchorage, AK 99507. Watch for a supply list to be sent via email on September 21st. Registration and tentative pricing is available on Sign-up Genius.

Intro to Spinning Report

Eight mentors passed on their knowledge to twelve students at our Intro to Spinning class on September 13th! I'd like to send a huge thank you to Nicole Putnam, Jeanie Farley, Tom Hobbs, Lori Wichman, Laura Woody, Laurene Stout and Wendy Craytor for spending their afternoon encouraging these new students by serving as mentors. It was a fantastic afternoon filled with tons of enthusiastic creative energy. Several new spinners were born and the guild gained a few new members too!



COMMUNITY SERVICE

Project Baby

By Dawn Groth

Traditionally the guild has had a community service project that members can contribute to. Examples of past projects include: chemo caps, lap robes and receiving blankets.

In 2014 Anchorage Weavers and Spinners Guild adopts a new community service project entitled Project Baby and organizer is guild member, Dawn Groth! Woop! Woop! FUN! FUN! We will collect handmade presents for first-born babies at Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center- Anchorage's Health Center providing the best healthcare regardless of people's ability to pay.

What: Anything and any size baby item you wish to knit, crotchet or weave will be donated to first-born babies at Anchorage

Neighborhood Health Center. For example, hats, mittens, sweaters, blankets, bags, stuffed animal, etc.

Suggestion: Consider super wash, or other machine-washable fiber. Tag your precious item with your name and washing instructions. Avoid attaching anything that could become a choking hazard.

Delivery: Deliver to any Anchorage Weavers and Spinners Guild board member, Anchorage Neighborhood Health Center-Pod A, or straight to AWSG Community Project Organizer, Dawn Groth

Chemo Caps

By Marjorie McLaren

For many years the Guild has had a charitable project to knit (or crochet or weave) hats for chemo patients. Around 5,750 hats have been distributed since inception of the project to the hospitals and infusion centers in Anchorage.

The need continues. The Guild recently received this thank you letter from the Katmai Oncology staff:

Dear "People of the Guild",

We just received a bag of hats and want you to know how much we all appreciate this gift you provide for our patients. These hats warm our patients' heads and hearts! Thank you so much.

Sadly we've lost many of the stalwarts of the Chemo Cap Project – Ruth Flournoy, Dolores Roguszka, and most recently, Ruth Deary (dubbed the Chemo Cap Queen for contributing over 500 knitted hats).

We could use some help! The major criteria are that the hats be handmade and soft on the head. Acrylic (gasp!) works well, but soft wool, blends, and handspun can be used. The hats can be for male or female, and most sizes will work. A note stating fiber content and washing instructions should accompany the hat. Tags are available for this purpose, with fill-in-the-blanks instructions on the back for fiber content and care. I have tags, Guild stash (mostly acrylic) and pattern binders at 2431 Spindrift Circle, Anchorage, AK 99515, 522-6610, email mclarenw@gci.net. Hats can be turned in to me at Guild meetings, at Third Thursday knitting at Gene Roguszka's, or at a mutually arranged place and time.

As we work on our clothing project this summer for the upcoming Fashion Show, why not also work on a hat for a break or to exercise your fingers in a different way? Also consider honoring Ruth Deary by knitting a chemo cap.

Thanks to Mary Janis, Annita Magee, Kristine Adams, Gene Roguszka and others (you know who you are!) for keeping this project alive. Please join me in a project that fills a great need in the community and is creative and fun as well!

TIPS & HINTS

YARN STORE REVIEW - KODIAK, AK

The Rookery (Kodiak, AK)

You will find The Rookery tucked away in a strip mall in Kodiak between a dentist's office and an insurance agent. I arrived too late to visit the first day we were in town, but I knew I'd be coming back the following morning when I saw their happy window display featuring brightly dyed roving and yarn in big mason jars. The riot of color made me begin to mentally juggle my luggage to figure out how to fit some new yarn and fiber. I contemplated throwing out Leon's clothing but he was not in favor of that plan so I had to downsize my shopping to work with the space available. As it turned out there was no need to get up particularly early since The Rookery is open noon to 5:30pm on Tuesday through Saturday.

Inside the store I found a huge variety of fiber craft items of every type. I briefly noticed that there was a nice wall of sewing/fiber notions and a good sized display of Alaska-themed cross stitch designs/kits. However those were secondary to the giant selection of yarn! The yarn bins are nearly floor to ceiling with small rows between them throughout the store. They hold every type of skeined yarn you can imagine. I counted 17 varieties of sock yarn alone before I got distracted by luxury yarns with blends of cashmere, alpaca and angora in them the further back in the store I walked. Next I found the \$5 sale bins sitting under the front counter (convenient since I needed to empty my arms anyway) and scored some awesome metallic accent yarn.

The back wall featured cones of soft cottons and wools making me wonder if someone in town was a machine knitter or weaver. However, I forgot to ask about knitting machines when I stumbled over the roving shelf. Although I'm perfectly capable of dyeing my own roving, I can never resist buying some when I find it when we are travelling.

It's so nice to think about our vacation later on when I'm spinning the fiber I brought home and it was not surprise when some bright pink/purple roving jumped into my tote. My assessment is that if you are in Kodiak and you like yarn, then The Rookery is worth a visit.

Submitted by Nicole Putnam.

WANTED

Photos of Guild members' amazing projects for the newsletter and fashion show publicity.

Send to Anne Brooks, 242-6405, brooks.markaanne@gmail.com

BOARD AWSG 2014-2015

Board Officers:

President, Pamela Grefsrud, 279-0332, pgrefsrud@alaska.com
President-Elect, Farrah Weinert, 503-807-7379, ak.farah@gmail.com

Secretary: Aubrey Campbell, aubreycampbell@gmail.com

Treasurer: Jeanie Farley, 522-1463, ??

Member-at-Large: Nicole Putnam, 563-9360, nickp1@gci.net

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Dawn Groth, dawngroth@gmail.com

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