



Western Reserve Spinners & Weavers Guild

Since 1975

Members of the Handweavers Guild of America

Volume 50 Issue 1

www.wrspinweave.org

Feb 2022

Our mission is to teach and promote the arts of spinning, weaving, dyeing and related fiber arts.

Monthly Meetings are on the 4th Tuesday of each Month (unless noted)
6:00 PM Casual social time
6:45 PM Show and Tell
7:00 PM Business Meeting and Program to follow.

Visit our website
www.wrspinweave.org
for update & schedule information

President's Letter Feb 2022

Hello everyone,

I want to start this year's newsletter by sharing the 2022 President's Challenge with all of you: Sustainability in the Fiber Arts.

Sustainability is very personal, and means different things to different people. This is a good thing, and fits very well into how our creativity is different from one another in our Guild, and we can inspire and encourage each other by sharing our experiences and projects. But it means it can be hard to pin down what you want to do with sustainability as a challenge. I'll start by telling a bit about my sustainability journey, and what sustainability means to me, then close this letter with some suggestions for how you can get started or continue on your own sustainable fiber journey.

A few years ago, I read "The Third Plate" by Dan Barber, and it gave me the opportunity to think more about the food we eat and where it comes from. I've always been someone who enjoys nature and cares about our impact on the environment, but other than recycling when I could and buying organic produce when I could afford it, I hadn't had the time to think or act any deeper. Food was an interest I shared with Tony, now my fiancé, and was an important part of our life together. Reading this book made me more motivated to look for local sources and eat more seasonally, which we continue to do as much as possible.

You might be asking, "What's this got to do with fiber?" Fast forward a year or 2, and I learned about the Livestock Conservancy's Shave 'Em to Save 'Em program and the concept of a Fibershed, and it resonated with me and the values I'd been considering when approaching food. If we are concerned with eating local, why aren't we also thinking about our clothing and household items as well? In summary, why don't we also make and create local, in addition to eating local?

Since then, there are a few things I've added to my crafting to be more sustainable.

- Purchasing from small businesses, especially those that are located near me.
- Buying yarn made from heritage breeds to help support farmers focused on maintaining biodiversity.
- Focusing on purchasing fiber made from naturally occurring materials.
- Using natural dyes or naturally colored fiber.
- Combining different yarn or fiber into a larger project, to use up stash instead of buying more materials.

I'll give an example. When my mom (a crocheter and sock knitter extraordinaire) and I visit one another, we "go yarn shopping" in each other's stash and trade fiber. It's a great way to get excited about a possible project, without increasing your stash's impact on your home or the environment, and hear ideas from someone else.

To bring it back to our Guild, I challenge you to think about what ideas around sustainability resonate with you, and implement them into a project.

If you want to learn more, I recommend checking out Shave 'Em to Save 'Em if you use wool, Rust Belt Fibershed to learn more about NE Ohio's fibershed & the producers that operate within it, or one of the books in the Guild Library on Natural Dyes. There are also many makers online you can follow to gain inspiration. Katrina Rodabaugh shares current projects around natural dyeing, mending, and thrifting. Gigi Matthews has presented and written for HGA, and has some projects and a recording on her website.

I hope this gives you some inspiration and ideas to incorporate into your work. Think about how a small change toward sustainability incorporated into your fiber endeavors could generate a larger impact over time.

Happy Crafting,
Flora

WELCOME NEW MEMBER !

Kristina Dew

Membership Roster Pictures

When you login to the members section on our website you can see the roster of all the members, along with a picture for each member.

Do you like the picture of you that is there? If you want provide a different picture please send it to Nora Eason nora.eason@gmail.com

You can edit your Website Profile in "Members Manage Account Information," but the information shown in the Roster is entered manually, so if this also needs to change send the update to Nora.

If you are having a problem accessing the roster, after you login you may need to click on the "Back to Members - Home" button that is just below "Contact Us".

2022 General Meeting Calendar

Feb 22	Presidents Challenge	Aug 23	Topic TBD
Mar 22	Pin Looms w/ Lisa & Cindy	Sept 27	South American Textiles
Apr 26	HGA Zoom Presentation	Oct 1&2	Demos at Lake Farmpark
May 14&15	Demos at Lake Farmpark	Nov 22	SIG Presentations
June 28	Ditto House Textiles	Dec 3	Holiday Luncheon
July 26	Stash Relocation Picnic		

Take advantage of our Guild Library

The Guild library has a lot to offer. Depending on how you categorize them, there are at least 17 books on weaving techniques, 7 on dyeing, 11 on sewing and patterns, and a smattering each on appliqué, felting, fiber preparation, history of textiles, color theory and design. Click on the "Library - WRSW Members" in the Members Content section to see the complete list of book that are free for you to borrow.

As always the library is open for anyone to stop over. The SIGs are also invited for a trip to the library to look through the collection in person.

Contact our librarian, Joyce Fath 440 834 8511 fath.joyce14@gmail.com to visit.

Loom in our Guild Library

Did you know that our Guild Library now has a Rigid Heddle Loom that can be loaned out to members? Do you want to try weaving before you buy a loom of your own?

The Glimakra rigid heddle loom has 8, 10 & 12 dent reeds along with some sticks and a shuttle. At the moment it is on loan to a second guild member.

Contact Joyce Fath to get on the list for when it is available.



Book Reports

The newsletter is looking for members to write book reviews (preferably on one of our guild library books, but not exclusively).

News from the SIGS

DYEING SIG

Facilitator: Bob Breitzmann robert.breitzmann@gmail.com

We are planning an IKAT Dyeing event in May, and a Cochineal Dyeing event in August. Contact Bob if you are interested in joining the group, or if you have any ideas for other events you would like to suggest. We have a box of dyes from Uarda Taylor that is available sometime so you only need to bring the fiber you want to dye. We are also looking for ideas on a workshop for the Dyeing SIG.

FELTING SIG

Facilitator: Cheryl Laufer cherlylaufer@gmail.com

In January we met via Zoom to wet felt “gauntlets” (also known as fingerless gloves or mittens) using a resist. The picture shows the progression of fiber shrinkage, left to right, once the resist is removed and the piece is further worked.



Our next gathering is scheduled for February 15, 11am at Mo Doerner’s house and the project will be wet felted wrist cuff or bracelet. Material list will be emailed. March 15 we will create felted bowls using doilies at Cheryl’s house. No April

SMALL LOOMS SIG

Co-Facilitators: Linda Christopher linda102@twc.com
& JoEllen Salkin joellenks@sbcglobal.net

We welcome Small Loom weavers of all levels and always have time to offer personal assistance at each meeting. Contact Linda or JoEllen if you are interested in joining. Our first event this year is on February 19th when Sue Ingrassia will teach us Krokbragd on the Rigid Heddle Loom. Throughout the year we will be playing Small Looms Bingo. As members explore different techniques and fibers they will attempt to reach a Bingo.

SPINNING SIG

Co-Facilitators: Mardi Gauer mardikf@yahoo.com
& Joan Horwich jrhorwich@gmail.com

We have 18 members in the spinning SIG this year. Our first meeting of the year is planned for February 19. The subject is Working with Dogbane, presented by member Susan Conover from 10:00 am to noon. We usually get together once a month for a spin time via ZOOM.

WEAVING SIG

Co-Facilitators: Nancy Curtiss nacurtiss@gmail.com
& Susan Conover szc@conoverworkshops.com

We’ve had a great kickoff to our 2022 season of Weaving SIG programming. Last year we look into Weaving Basics, this year we are looking at Color and Design. At our first ZOOM gathering on January 16th, we began with “Design Basics: Golden Ratio, Fibonacci, & Lucas Series” and had a book report on Johannes Itten’s, *The Elements of Color*. We’ve had one lunchtime session of Weaver-to-Weaver, which is an opportunity for members to ask questions of each other for general discussion and troubleshooting, and it was exciting to hear the weaving talk going on.



Weaving SIG (continued)

Here's our schedule for February/March:

Feb 7 (Mon) noon-1 pm via Conover ZOOM Weaver-to-Weaver session.

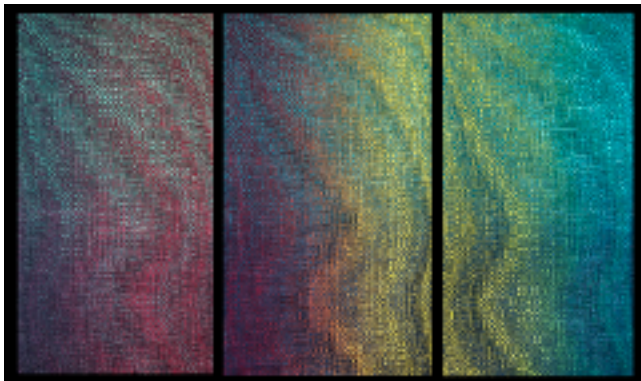
Feb 20 (Sun) 2-4 pm via Conover ZOOM Meeting. Susan will present "Color Basics I: Describing Color Overview in Hues, Values, and Saturation". Nancy will review *On Weaving* by Anni Albers.

Mar 7 (Mon) noon-1 pm via Conover ZOOM Weaver-to-Weaver session.

Mar 20 (Sun) 2-4 pm via Conover ZOOM Meeting. Susan will present "Color Basics II: Navigation of the Color Wheel, Complex Colors, and Warm & Cool Colors". Nancy will review *Color and Texture in Weaving* by Margo Selby.

The Weaving SIG is also looking forward to our first weaving workshop since 2019! We are so grateful to the late Uarda Taylor for her love of workshops and her financial gift to the Guild, and we'll honor her on October 15 & 16th with a class that she would have enjoyed. We'll be having a virtual workshop with Rosalie Neilson called "Huck Lace Towels on 4 or 8-Shafts: Understanding Color and Design". So perfect for this year's Weaving SIG theme! This workshop is being made available only for *active* Weaving SIG members who had joined our 2022 group by January 23rd, which was the date of our first meeting. If you are not currently a member of the Weaving SIG, we will have a Wait List available. Please contact Nancy if you'd like to be placed on this list.

We're happy to say that at present we have twenty-three members, but it's never too late to join in the fun. The Weaving SIG is open to any WRSW member in good standing (paid up with current dues) who has an interest in weaving on traditional floor or table weaving looms. Please contact co-facilitators Susan Conover and Nancy Curtiss.



Western Reserve Spinners and Weavers Guild

Officers

President: Flora Daniels 937 207 7554 daniels.flora@gmail.com

Vice President: Karen Gerken karen.gerkin@gmail.com

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robert.breitzmann@gmail.com

To become a member of the
Western Reserve Spinners and Weavers Guild
Please send the form below with your check (to WRSW) to:
Nora Eason 11483 Robin Wood Lane Auburn Twp Ohio 44023

Name _____
Address _____
City, State, Zip _____
Email address _____
Phone number _____

The newsletter is available on the Guild website and will be emailed.
Please let us know if you are not able to receive it in this format.

Bob Breitzmann
Newsletter Editor
440 773 6058

Our Guild receives a percentage of the sale when you shop at the following...

When you shop online at "The Woolery", just use the link on our website.



When you shop at "Halcyon Yarn" mention WRSW when you place your order.



You can shop at Cafe Press for WRSW merchandise.



We have a public page on facebook, and a private user group where you can share your work and interact with other guild members. Only guild members can see what you post on this user group.

