



WOODLAND

Weavers & Spinners Guild

Season 2006-07, No. 5

January 2007

NEWSLETTER

NEXT MEETING

January 8, 2007
7:00 p.m.

Laurie Angell

Stretches and Other Useful Techniques for Happy Knitting & Weaving

We meet at
Trinity Congregational Church
2725 4 Mile Rd NW
Grand Rapids, MI

Who is responsible for Treats and Greeting?

I lost my notes,
and couldn't find
anyone else who
could help me.
—The Editor

Member



Michigan
League of
Handweavers

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JANUARY'S SPEAKER—

LAURIE ANGELL

"Stretches and other useful techniques for happy knitting and weaving." Laurie will talk about her experiences with the physical problems of weaving due to poor body mechanics. She will talk about good physical practices when weaving and possible ways to avoid injuries. Laurie is a certified massage therapist and will undoubtedly help us all to relax more at the loom.

The speakers for February are Liz Oppewal and Jackie Fisher. They will share some of their weaving wisdom.

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Greetings and Happy New Year to all of you!

It was nice to see so many of you at the Christmas party. The weather sure was much nicer on the 11th of December than it was on the previous week. Now it feels like early spring rather than the beginning of a new year.

What are your goals for 2007? I am usually glad to see the New Year, so I can start over and try to work on some of my bad habits (like procrastination). It doesn't always work, but it's worth a try. I have learned a few things from the small amount of weaving I have done in the past year. This includes the following:

1. Don't wait until two nights before a weekend weaving workshop to thread your loom when the sampler calls for 547 ends (I made a good college try, but didn't quite make it!).

2. When you start weaving, make sure you have reset the tension in your fabric, otherwise your shuttle will fall to the ground, and your beat will be kind of sloppy.

3. Be ready to catch your shuttle after you "throw." Otherwise, it will clatter to the ground, usually far enough out of reach so that you have to get off the bench to retrieve it.

4. I'm not sure how this happens, but sometimes the shuttle goes through the bottom part of the shed (before it reaches the end of the weaving width) and also lands on the ground. I'm still working on trying not to do this.

5. If it has been awhile since you last sat down at the loom, be sure to look at your treadling pattern as you are weaving, and don't just rely on your memory. Otherwise you could end up very confused, wondering if somehow the loom has rethreaded itself in your absence. The last time you were weaving, the pattern was working; what changed? (I did figure this one out, but it took a little while).

6. Don't remove the lease sticks too early if you are threading from back to front. It makes your warp a little messy to say the least. (I'm sure everyone has done this at least once!).

7. Observe others weaving as much as possible. You will see that everyone makes mistakes, even very experienced weavers. You will also be able to pick up some tips from how others approach their weaving.

That being said, I have learned a great deal from my mistakes, the first of which is to just keep on going, which is probably the hardest thing to do. Failure will eventually lead to success, even though

it may not be measurable at first. I think we can apply this to a variety of situations, not just weaving. So, keep on weaving and have a great 2007!

—Mary Ellen Gedris

LOOM FOR SALE

Colonial LeClerc loom, weaves 45" wide, has 10 treadles and 8 harnesses. It is a jack loom but has the extra piece for counter balance also. It has 3 reeds, 10, 12, 14 dents. It is in excellent condition, not used very much. I am including a home made bench.

\$2000.00. If interested please call Muskegon; 231-759-0592, or e-mail karenmeyer2001@yahoo.com.

TAPESTRY LOOM FOR SALE

32" Mirrix Tapestry Loom, 8, 10, and 12 dent coils. Maximum weaving area 29" x 40". \$280.00

Mirrix add-on Treadle. Fits any size Mirrix. \$120.00

Contact Priscilla Lynch at (269) 857-5614, jplynch99@comcast.net in Saugatuck.

(This loom is part of Pris Lynch's sale, but I didn't list it in the last newsletter. If interested, contact Priscilla to see if she still has this loom.—The Editor)

LOOM WANTED

I am a tapestry weaver living in Elliot Lake, Ontario. I am looking for a Shannock Tapestry Loom, minimum width 4'. If you know of such a loom that might be available for purchase, please let me know. Thank you.

E-mail: dean.hebert@sympatico.ca

—Beth Hebert

WWS SALE

The sales survey conducted by the guild last fall indicated a strong desire by the membership to hold an annual sale. The sales committee met in November and had an enthusiastic and productive meeting. The goal is to have a show/sale in the fall of 2007. We are currently investigating possible locations.

How can you help? Many volunteers will be needed to produce a high quality, high volume sale. Be watching for opportunities to help—and of course we will need lots of "stuff" to sell. This will be a great opportunity to promote the fiber arts!

DRAFTING STUDY GROUP

The drafting study group will meet on Monday, January 29 at 6:30. The location is yet to be determined. The group will exchange samples, go over the homework exercise and discuss swatch assignments for chapter 2.

MLH CONFERENCE AT HOPE COLLEGE:

Michigan League of Handweavers' biennial conference, June 21-23, 2007 (3-day pre-conference workshops June 18-20) will take place at Hope College. Lots of seminars, speakers, exhibits, and the most tempting of all, great commercial exhibits. Join MLH now to get all the information right away. Dues \$20/year, \$37 for 2 years (\$40 includes extra for Scholarship fund); make check to MLH; send to Mary Fechner, 403 Toledo Street, Adrian MI 49221; mlfechner@tc3net.com.

