



WOODLAND

Weavers & Spinners Guild

February 2010

Season 2009-10, No. 7

Next meeting
Monday, Feb. 1, 2010
7:00 PM

Weave-Its Round Robin: Weaving/Spinning

Treaters/Greeters
Sierra Cole
Ellen DeKoster
Jane Nelson
Liz Oppewal

Meetings are held at
Trinity Congregational Church,
2725 4 Mile Rd NW
Off the Walker Exit of I-96

Meetings and Reminders

We had a very nice turn out for the January meeting at the ICCF. What a nice fiber show it was! They bent over backwards to make our visit pleasant. Even made us a pot of coffee. So, 2010 got off to a very nice start.

In February we will have several looms warped with different patterns for you to play with. Margaret and Gabriela will assist us with using Weave-its. And if you have a spinning wheel and are willing to share it, please bring it with you. Don't forget to bring fiber to use on your Weave-its and fiber to spin! A hands-on play date!

The Drafting Diva's plan on having a meeting on February 11 at Schuler Books on Alpine, 7:00 p.m.. We are reading the second half of chapter 5 in the book "Mastering Weave Structures." We always welcome new members to this group.

According to my sources, Chelsea is February 20th. If you haven't gone before and are a spinner, the array of fiber is impressive and you can spend lots of money on beautiful roving. Typically we car pool from Diane VanderPol's house. So get in touch with Diane to join this outing. While there we visit the "Common Grill" for a wonderful lunch.

From the President

GOALS

The 15th of the month seems to roll around quickly. Bob will be anxious to get the information together to print another great Woodland Weavers and Spinners newsletter, so here I am sitting in front of my computer over morning coffee.

I have been rehearsing my lines all week. But where to start? I did start to write a page right after the first of the year so I'll start there:

My day was set in stone. Christmas was over, 99% of the decorations were in the attic, I was going to pay bills, send out rebates, cash a few checks and load up on healthy eating type foods. It was January 4th and our first meeting of the year was later in the evening.

I don't know exactly when my day went awry. I think it was when I started to file a few receipts left around after the holidays. Then I started to clear my desk top and opened the center drawer and created a fiasco.

The center drawer was due for an overhaul and I found out why my pens were missing—and paperclips, nails, old postage stamps, buttons and safety pins. They had all migrated under the papers in the drawer.

Its January and I have the cleaning bug.

It never ceases to amaze me how I'll start to do one thing and end up doing something all together different.

My attention wanders from one job to another. I have concluded that that is why I have so many projects going at one time.

(Continued on page 2)

On March 1, we welcome Martha Reeves who will share with us her journey to achieving her Certificate of Excellence in weaving.

And don't forget your checkbooks if you are going to attend the retreat on March 6. We appreciate it when you sign up ahead of time. It makes it so much easier for the people keeping the books.

Don't forget to bring your show and tell to the February meeting. I'm sure with the holiday season over, everyone has lots of completed projects to share!

See you at the meeting,

Julie Daniels

Guild Minutes January 4, 2010

Program: January's meeting was held at the Inner City Christian Federation building, 920 Cherry Street, Grand Rapids, so that guild members could enjoy the textile exhibit, *The Fabric of Our Lives*, currently hanging there. ICCF's AnnaMae Bush introduced the exhibit to guild members and served as hostess for the evening. Her introduction provided a framework for our enjoying the artwork immensely. Since the exhibit will run through early April, we are welcome to peruse the work again!

Business Meeting: President Julia Daniels chaired the brief business meeting. The minutes as printed in the newsletter were accepted. Treasurer Rebecca Kugele reported that the guild has \$6,167 in the treasury after all checks have been written and expenses paid for December's sale.

Members were reminded that February's meeting will include the opportunity to try a variety of new/different fiber looms and wheels. Jane Talbot will be bringing fiber from her animals for sale. Members are encouraged to sign up for the guild retreats at the lakeshore on March 6 and April 24. Guild members interested in car-pooling to the Fleece Fair in Chelsea on February 20 are encouraged to call Diane Vander Pol. There is still room for guild members to sign up for the sewing workshop in May.

Business meetings tend to be short when there is art to be seen!

*[Prepared from notes by
Ginny Kuilema]
Respectfully submitted,
Margaret Jager, Secretary*

Weaving Lessons

Interested in taking a weaving class this summer? Two classes for beginners through advanced will be offered at the Franciscan Center in Lowell. For cost and dates, call the Franciscan Center, at 616-897-7842

Jochen Ditterich

The Weaver

www.WeaverJochen.com

(616)304-5337

(Continued from page 1)

My goals for the new year were to never leave a loom unworped for over a week and to start exercising.

My last loom was emptied on December 24th at 2:15 p.m. This date and time are set in stone. It was Christmas eve, the weather was not going to be nice, so we bumped up our family get together to 3:00 in the afternoon. And I just finished weaving rugs for my daughters. The plan had been to weave one for Rhonda this year, but I found there was enough warp for another rug on there and I absolutely can't cut warp off the loom when there is enough for another project. So I spent every moment I could weaving that second rug. Of course you can't just cut them off the loom. I had to quickly zigzag the edges and then ran upstairs to wrap them. Hemming the edges had to wait until after they were opened!

So today is the 15th of January and I have wound warps for two projects. One is sitting in a basket in my weaving room..... waiting for me to tackle the mess in there so I can get to the loom. The cleaning bug hasn't quite hit me hard enough to attempt this all day job. And the other warp is wound on the back beam and is 90% threaded. So I ask you, "Is that considered warped?"

I was so anxious to get my tree out of the house this year and put my loom back in the corner where it sat. I have these project ideas, but my projects outweigh the time to execute them all. I dream that my family will tell me to ignore the house. They will clean it, cook for me, do the laundry and let me work on my projects 24/7. Yes, I know, it's a HUGE dream and it will never happen.

So I flit from project to project. Happy in my creativity. Living for the moment. I remember the diary I kept as a teenager. It was all about the people I saw and current events. Now I've started a notebook(diary), but it is full of the fiber related projects I work on during the day. So if I feel things are not coming together, I can look back and see that I am working toward my goals. A few minutes here and there add up to completed projects.

I still have to work on the clean the closet project. And I can think of at least 4 more that are sitting there waiting for attention. But I am accomplishing small daily goals. I just have to read my journal.

And tomorrow I plan to start exercising....

Julia Daniels

Biography: Margaret Jager

Margaret Jager, who recently retired from her busy teaching career, finds she is busy now in other ways. In her early years of growing up on her family's farm in central Iowa, Margaret found herself influenced by her mother's creativity in needlework and quilting. She said her mom always had a basket with an ongoing project to work on.

As a high school freshman, Margaret taught herself to knit as a year long school project. She continued to knit while attending Calvin College, where knitting was all the rage with the other young women students. Later, a young mother, Margaret would take her knitting along to the park while her children were playing.

As time went by, Margaret continued to knit, following patterns of other knitters. A book on knitting authored by Elizabeth Zimmerman, caused Margaret to try her hand at creating her own knitting patterns. That switch in pursuing the art of creativity in hand-knitting greatly influenced the way Margaret continues to knit today.

Spinning her own yarns came later, in the 1980's, when Margaret found she could have more control over her own yarns. She bought a used wheel, began taking spinning classes at Michigan Fiber Fest and continued to hone her spinning skills. Margaret manages to spin for a while every day and she produces some lovely yarns to use in knitting and weaving. Margaret said that while spinning she finds it helps her to think and solve problems.

Weaving is a fairly new pursuit for Margaret. She has just recently discovered rigid heddle weaving, bought a Cricket Loom by Schacht, and is now weaving fabric for decorative pillows using some of her hand-spun yarn. Margaret also attends some of the guild workshops to improve her weaving skills using her floor loom.

Margaret is married to Tom, who teaches mathematics at Calvin College. They have three grown daughters and three grandchildren. Margaret recently visited with the three grandchildren, who live in Paris, France with their parents. For seven years Margaret taught school in the Chicago area while Tom was attending graduate school. They later moved the Grand Rapids area when Tom began teaching at Calvin. After her three daughters were pretty well grown, Margaret returned to teaching. She taught 6th, 7th, and 8th grade mathematics and English for the Christian Schools.

Currently, Margaret is active in WW&S guild as secretary. She is also the secretary for the MLH guild. She is co-chair, along with Barb Van Dyke, on the up-coming MLH exhibit at Kendall College (Mid-Aug. thru Mid-Sept., 2010). This is a juried exhibit with prizes awarded in different categories. (Hopefully, WW&S will have some entries).

During the winter months, Margaret welcomes knitters to join the Saturday knitting group that meets at The Boston Square CRC. There she assists people on their projects (or problems).

Margaret continues to be an active learner. She is taking a drawing class at Kendall College. Looking ahead, Margaret wants to become a "very good weaver" with plans to produce fabric for garments. Another goal is to use up her "stash" of yarns (mostly handspun). Margaret said she finds the members of our guild to be extremely interesting and creative, and they inspire others to pursue the varied aspects of the fiber arts. I whole-heartedly agree with Margaret. We are a wonderful and interesting group of individuals, each bringing our own thread to weave into the fabric.

Contributed by Linda Blue

Value Needed

A friend of mine is trying to find the approximate value of a gorgeous handmade rug (about 3' X 5') that her sister got in Afghanistan. It is to be auctioned off at a non-profit's fund-raising event, and they're trying to determine the value. The event is the first Saturday in February, so she needs help as quickly as possible. Contact me if you think you can offer a suggestion, and I'll put you in touch with my friend. Thank you!

*Jackie Fisher
231-740-3829*

Woodland Weavers and Spinners Guild

President: Julia Daniels
Vice-President: Joni Rosen
Secretary: Margaret Jager
Treasurer: Rebecca Kugele,
Newsletter Editor: Bob Meyering

Member



Newsletter copy due on the
15th of the month

WOODLAND WEAVERS AND SPINNERS

2009-2010 WORKSHOPS, RETREATS, MEETINGS

- September 14, 2009
Meeting -Welcome Back
Crossword Puzzle
Favorite Books
- September 19, 2009
Natural Dye Workshop
- October 5, 2009
Meeting -Barbara Wright
Lets Play With Clay
- October 10, 2009
Femo Button Workshop
- November 2, 2009
Meeting – Nancy Laferriere
Fiber Artists in the South of France
- November 7, 2009
Retreat
- December 4, 5, 2009
Guild Sale
Prince Conference Center
- December 7, 2009
Holiday Meeting
- January 4, 2010**
Meeting – ICCF Building
Fabric Exhibition
- February 1, 2010**
Meeting – Weave-Its
Judi, Margaret, Gabriela
Round Robin, Weaving/Spinning
- March 1, 2010**
Meeting – Martha Reeves
A Journey to the Certificate of
Excellence and Master Weaver
- March 6, 2010**
Retreat
- April 12, 2010**
Meeting – Priscilla Lynch
Short History of Tapestry
Design and Processes
- April 24, 2010**
Retreat
- May 1-2, 2010**
Workshop – Sewing with
Debra Youngs
- May 3, 2010**
Meeting – Debra Youngs
- June 7, 2010**
Meeting – End of Year

**Thank you to all who signed up to bring a warped loom for the round robin in January. We have had a change of plans and will include the round robin with the Weave-its at our February meeting.

Along with the warped loom, please bring the pattern warped and the recommended treadling to achieve the design. The loom only needs a short warp and 4-6 inches should be more than enough width.

Honeycomb.....Linda Blue
Twill.....Mary Ellen Gedris
Lace.....Betty Christians
Log Cabin.....Jackie Fisher
Monks Belt.....Joni Rosen
Riggid Heddle, plain weave....Sue Vegter

Spinning Study Group...

will continue to meet at Martha Katt's home, Knapp Valley Condominiums, 1774 Turnstone Lane NE, Grand Rapids, MI. Our February meeting will be at 7:30 p.m. on February 15.

Also in February, the Spinners Flock Fleece Fair is on Saturday, February 20. Anyone interested in car pooling to this event should get in touch with Diane VanderPol, dvpo@calvin.edu, 616-940-2955.

Internet Site Recommendation

Jane Stafford Textiles
www.janestaffordtextiles.com/

Recommended by Rebecca Kugele.
This site has information, sales, and other links for weaving, knitting, etc.

One link you will find takes you to this site, another source of great information for weavers:

Ruthe Stowe's Weaving World!_ www.weavingworld.ca



These four “people,” made of fabric, are naturally interested in your work with fabrics. We met them, as you may remember, at the ICCF exhibit last month.