



WARPED

October
2013

The Newsletter of the Nashoba Valley Weavers' Guild

PO Box 50, Harvard MA 01451

The Fruitlands Museum Connection, Reestablished

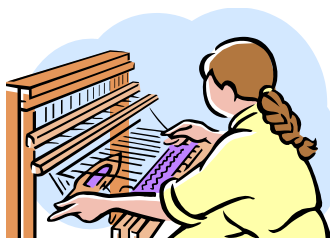
For many years, NVWG and Fruitlands Museum worked together to provide educational programs to our Guild members and the public. As part of NVWG's outreach program, Guild members would demonstrate to Museum visitors and provide lectures on various weaving topics. In return, Fruitlands offered us free admission and, when needed, space for workshops. Several years ago, the Museum had a large turnover in staff, and our connection to them was lost.

Thanks to founding member Reba Maisel, NVWG has re-introduced ourselves to the new staff at Fruitlands. On September 21st, we began our new journey. Guild members and friends of Guild members gathered for a picnic lunch, complete with cider and donuts from Harvard's own Westward Orchards. Many members also took advantage of the time to tour the Museum, including the special exhibit "Gather Up the Fragments: The Andrews Shaker Collection". After lunch, Guild member Roben Campbell gave a lecture "Shaker Textiles – The Sears and Andrews Collections". Roben is a true expert on Shaker textiles and gave a great talk. After her presentation, Guild members gathered to demonstrate how to weave a Shaker style carpet bag. This demo seemed to help a lot of the non-weavers who attended the lecture to understand the techniques that Roben had discussed.

The connection with Fruitlands will continue on October 13. NVWG will demonstrate and mentor various types of weaving. We will need several members to help on this day. The hours are 11am-4pm, which can be broken into shifts, if needed. The Guild floor loom will be set up for people to try. We're looking for as many as possible "other" types of looms (tapestry, inkle, rigid heddle, table, back strap, triangular, "Weavette", bead, etc....literally anything!) that Guild members can demo with and/or help people try. There will be a display area to showcase woven items that the volunteers have made. Onsite sales are not permitted, but business cards can be handed out. If you can help with any part of this, please let us know.

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October Meeting: Sewing and Finishing Techniques for Hand Woven Fabrics

On Tuesday, October 22 at 7:30 pm, Sarah Fortin will present a program to familiarize weavers with the variety of sewing and finishing techniques used when sewing with hand woven fabrics.

Description: Much of the impact that our finished pieces will have is affected by the finishing techniques we use. Those methods may make or break the piece of work. This seminar will cover many sewing and finishing techniques for clothing that may be used on other work as well. Through the use of slides and many samples, these techniques will be shown. Bring any unfinished pieces, or even those that are finished, about which you may have questions.

Please note: This program is independent of the Spring Workshop "Art to Wear". You do not have to participate in the workshop to attend this meeting.



2013 Guild Challenge Winners

Our challenge last year included a warp swap and a stash buster challenge. Guild members had to wind a warp from their stash yarns. These warps were placed in paper bags along with a few notes on fiber content and suggested sett. At the December meeting, we "blindly" chose a paper bag. We each had until the June potluck to turn those warps into something. But.....we could only use yarns from our own stashes as weft!

The end results were pretty cool. Members told their stories of struggle, but everyone came up with great results. We asked that people identify the warps they wound, but many were left unclaimed. Either the warp winders weren't at the potluck, or members no longer recognized the warps they wound! If you contributed a warp and didn't go to the potluck, please tell us your warp story so we can show you what it was turned into!

Challenge Awards

- Most "Wow", Susan's purple place mat
- Most Whimsical, Judith's blue/multi place mats
- Best Use of Color, Kathy's Runner w/sample
- Most Creative, Laura's baby blanket
- Most Practical, Penny's bag and towel
- Best Technical Execution, Joan's pillow

2013-2014 Guild Theme and Challenge - Our theme this year is “Finish It!” To that end, our challenge to our members is to finish one or several hand woven projects. You may interpret the word “finish” in any way you like, but only woven projects can be included. Perhaps you wove fabric and never did anything with it. We challenge you to dig it out and turn it into something useful. Or maybe you’ve had a project in your head for a long time. Now’s your chance to get it done! Got a project that has you stuck? Bring it to a meeting and let other members help you brainstorm. Planning to take our March workshop on clothing construction? Those garments count, provided they are finished in time! Bring your Challenge item or items to our annual potluck meeting in June to show them off.

Events

Thru Dec 1 Fruitlands Museum, Harvard, MA. Gather up the Fragments: The Andrews Shaker Collection.
<http://www.fruitlands.org/gatherupthefragments>

Oct 19-20 New York Sheep and Wool, Rhinebeck, NY. <http://www.sheepandwool.com/>

Oct 5-29 “Artists Among You - An Exhibition by the Merrimack Valley Artisans”, Chelmsford Library.
www.merrimackvalleyartisans.org

Nov. 2-3 New England Fiber Festival, Springfield, MA. Held at the Big E grounds.
http://www.thebige.com/ese/ESEEvents/Fiber_Festival.asp

Complex Weavers Call for Entries and Exhibit

Complex Weavers is an international volunteer organization dedicated to expanding the boundaries of hand weaving and encouraging weavers to develop their own creative styles. Weavers of all levels share information and innovations with fellow weavers through newsletters, a journal, study groups, a biennial conference and an exhibit titled *Complexity*. *Complexity 2014* is an international juried exhibit featuring works employing complex weave structures interlacing threads and fibers in ways beyond plain weave. *Complex weaving is defined by the cloth produced and the mind it took to create it, not by the equipment used.* There is no requirement that the work must be woven on a minimum number of shafts or on a Jacquard loom. Works with historic inspiration and interpretations, as well as non-loom interlacements such as ply split braiding and tablet weaving are welcome.

This exhibit will travel to three locations:

University of Nebraska-Lincoln, Robert Hillestad Textiles Gallery, Lincoln, NE April 7 – May 9, 2014
 Hotel Murano, Tacoma, WA June 28 – 30, 2014 (During Complex Weavers Seminars)
 Brown University, Cohen Gallery, Providence, RI July 14 – August 1, 2014 (During HGA’s Convergence®)

All members of Complex Weavers and full-time students at accredited colleges and universities may submit entries. Non-member artists may join Complex Weavers (www.complex-weavers.org) by the submission date. Work will be evaluated by three jurors: Marguerite Gingras, Alice Schlein and Wendy Weiss.

Entry deadline: Nov 18, 2013.

www.complex-weavers.org

Questions: Sandra Hutton (719) 488-3716, CWExhibit@comcast.net



Art to Wear Workshop

Sarah Fortin will present a 3 day “Art to Wear” workshop on February 28 – March 2, 2014. A description of the workshop follows. Information on location, cost and registration will be sent in a future email.

3-Day Art to Wear

Objective:

Students will finish, or have the knowledge to finish, a jacket or coat, sewn of their own hand woven fabric. They will gain the knowledge and confidence to design, cut, sew and embellish a garment, done within the parameters of the provided pattern and the fabric they have woven.

Art to Wear

Much of the impact of your finished piece of weaving will make is determined by the sewing and finishing techniques that are used. The type, and skill level, of the finishing may end up making or breaking the quality of the piece, no matter the excellence of the weaving. This is an opportunity to create an unlined coat, jacket or kimono style jacket with your hand woven fabric. Bring your yardage, use my patterns (discontinued, re-designed commercial patterns) to learn sewing and finishing techniques that will compliment your fabric. You will learn to make appropriate decisions about seam finishes, trims and edge finishes that are suitable for use with these fabrics and styles. Sewing machine required. Further information will be sent by instructor.

Prior to the workshop students are given ideas for appropriate weave structures, yarns, and setts. They are sent information about each of the 3 patterns, with pattern outlines. I am available for emails and phone calls for anyone with questions.

Day One:

1. Introduction, students will discuss experiences of weaving yardage for this garment. Discuss appropriate seam finishes for each fabric.
2. Try on samples garments, make decision about which pattern to use.
3. Plan layout of pattern, making design decisions about coordinating fabrics.
4. Cut out garment.
5. Start seam construction if time permits.

Day Two:

1. Lecture, using images and samples, on appropriate construction techniques.
2. Students continue construction of garments, with individual attention when needed. I use “teaching moments”, gathering students for demonstrations, or quick instruction, when a question is appropriate for all students.

Day Three: Students continue sewing at their own pace, with instruction where needed. At the noon hour, an assessment is taken of the progress of each student. We then go over what is needed to finish each piece. We have a little fashion show during the last hour. There is time for me to get an oral evaluation of the process.

CONVERGENCE 2014 is in Rhode Island!

Did you know that Convergence will be held in Rhode Island next year – what a great opportunity to attend without the expense of travel! For more information visit their website at:

<http://www.weavespindye.org/?loc=8-00-00>

Here is info on volunteering directly from Convergence:

We hope you are excited that HGA's Convergence® 2014 conference will be nearby in Providence next summer. Since it is almost in your backyard, we invite you to get involved. There will be thousands of participants coming to experience all that HGA's Convergence has to offer, it is a great opportunity to make new fiber friends and showcase the best that New England has to offer.

There are many ways that you can become involved. HGA needs volunteers to head up some important committees. Key volunteers and committee chairs will earn the gratefulness of HGA staff and Board along with a CVP package ticket to Convergence® conference events.

Coordination of all HGA Juried Exhibits

- Fashion Show
- Leader's Exhibit
- Leader's Gallery
- Small Expressions
- Community Exhibits
- Volunteer coordination
- Equipment needs of visiting delegates and leaders

The tasks do not need to be overwhelming, groups can work together. An example of this would be if people are interested in the Fashion Show, a group of friends or a guild can take this job on and work together. We need one person to be responsible for the group as a whole and be the contact person for HGA.

HGA also needs a guild to take on the responsibility of providing looms and spinning wheels for delegates that are traveling to Providence. This is a wonderful fund raiser for a guild. Responsibilities include: receiving the rental request, communicating with the renter, delivering the equipment to the convention center and the correct room, returning equipment to the owner and collecting all fees. The guild could keep all the money or share it with the owner.

Volunteers who wish to help on site by greeting visitors at registration, taking tickets at events, helping install and ship exhibit pieces and more should sign on the HGA website.

<http://www.weavespindye.org/pages/?p=convergence2014/volunteers.html&loc=8-115-00>

Volunteers interested in Key positions with HGA's Convergence® conference team please contact me at candybarbag@gmail.com or 561-487-8939.

Display Opportunity

The guild has received the following request for fiber artists to display work at the Boxford library:

Hello,

I am a librarian at the Boxford Public Library and I would like to start showing artwork by local artists on a bi-monthly basis at the library. I have a background in textiles - I ran a weaving studio in Brookline, Mass for a number of years - so I would really like to show some fiber art here.

I am planning now for after the holidays. Please let me know if someone in your guild, or the guild as a whole, would be interested in putting together a small show.

I look forward to hearing from you.

Regards,

Corinn Flaherty, Library Assistant
 Boxford Town Library
 10 Elm Street Boxford, MA 01921
 Phone: 978-887-7323

NVWG Officers

At Large	Reba Maisel
Historian	Dorothy Solbrig
Hospitality	Carol Vales
Librarian	Kathy Tappan
NEWS Rep	Susan Targove
Treasurer	Arlette Stawasz
Webmaster	Penny Lacroix
Co-Chair	Penny Lacroix
At Large	Lisa White
Co-Chair	Laura Busky
NEWS Rep	Kathy Tappan
Newsletter	Krista Hampsch
Program Director	
Publicist	Arlette Stawasz
Secretary	Judith Shangold

Used Looms

Lisa White has been made aware of several looms for sale:

- (2) Macomber 4-harness add-a-harness, 52" wide;
 - (2) Macomber 4-harness 24" wide
 - (1) barn loom, 2-harnesses, 50" wide
 - (1) Ideal 2-harness, 44" wide
 - (1) really small all metal table loom, 4 harnesses, guessing it's about 8" - 10" wide
- and (1) Pfaff Pasat D knitting machine

All looms are floor looms with the exception of the small metal table loom. If interested in all or any part of this list, please contact me at your earliest convenience at lisa_white115@hotmail.com. I have some photos on my iPhone. This equipment is not new, is part of an arts and crafts center that is dissolving. I took a look and everything looks to be in excellent condition; the two add-a-harnesses include benches. They are all set up and ready to warp, that is, I tried the pedals and all the parts work smoothly. They will need to be dismantled prior to moving. There is a warping board and several of those stands for holding your braid while making the braid for a braided rug.

Yahoo Site

We would like to remind everyone that the Guild has a Yahoo Group available. We would like to be able to use it to contact our entire membership, but not all members are subscribed. It's free, and you can decide if you want individual emails, a daily digest of emails for the day, or no emails (meaning you would need to log on to the Yahoo Group site to view any postings). To subscribe, go to www.yahogroups.com. In the "Find a Yahoo! Group" box, type "nvwg" and click the search button. Our group, entitled "nvwg", should come up in the search results with a "Join This Group" link. Click the link and follow the instructions. If you have any trouble subscribing, please let us know and we can "force" your subscription from our end. I will post our meeting reminder to the Yahoo Group list, so you will have some indication if you're already subscribed.



Guild Library

A listing of the books and magazines owned by the guild is located at:

<http://www.nvvg.org/library.html>

NVVG Meetings

NVVG meetings are held at The Fiber Loft, 9 Massachusetts Ave. (Rt. 111) in Harvard MA. Refreshments, shopping at The Fiber Loft and access to a selection of the guild library begin at 7 pm.

New members are always welcome.



Snow Cancellation Policy

If the weather outside is frightful how do you know if a meeting is cancelled? If the schools are closed in Harvard, MA then the meeting is cancelled. In addition the board will send out an email announcement by noon of the meeting day if the meeting will be cancelled. Finally, you can always call the Fiber Loft at (978) 456-8669 and inquire – if they are closed there will be no meeting!