

Weavers West News

Sun City West, Arizona

November 2019

Co-Presidents' Corner:



Bonnie's Blog

Hello Weavers and Spinners,

I just realized this will be my last Newsletter article as Co-President for Weavers West Guild. I feel like I've learned so much about the Guild and gotten to know many of you a lot better while serving on the Board as Vice President and Co-President the last two years. I want to thank everyone on the Board. It has been a great group to work with and a good experience overall. I must say I'm looking forward to being a lay person in the Guild again though! I wish the best for our new Board under the competent leadership of Terri Reeves. She's done a wonderful job as Co-President this year; most especially in forging the plans for our new space with the help of the Space Remodeling Committee.

We had a wonderful fall baked potato social again this year. Thank you to Mary Hartzheim and Bonnie Krause for pulling that all together for us. Baked potatoes with all the fixin's just seem to say "fall" and tasted so good. Please save the date and plan on attending our December banquet on Friday, December 13, at Briarwood. Mary and Bonnie's "Sheep Thrills" banquet last April was delightful, so come see what they have in store for us in December. We will have our General Meeting on Friday, December 6, which means all of the Guild business will take place then. We'll just have lots of fun and install our new Board officers at the banquet.

I'm working on a throw/blanket on loom #10 better known as Charles' Loom. Once I try my hand at Larry's Loom, I will at least have woven on each type of floor loom we have. Stop by and check out the projects going on at the Guild. The table loom class is going great guns. I've tried to listen in a little on the class, and I'm thinking I would really like to sit in on that class and learn some new tips. Robin Bromley is doing a fantastic job of teaching.

Hope to see you all soon.

Bonnie Benson
Co-President



Terri's Talk

Inspiration - noun - "the process of being mentally stimulated to do or feel something, especially to do something creative."

One of the most challenging issues for me as a weaver is how to find inspiration for the next project. I sometimes browse through the great literature we have at our fingertips here at the Guild. Our library is stocked with great books and wonderful magazines filled with imaginative and creative projects.

Then there are numerous online websites filled with colorful projects from all around the world. Recently I signed up to receive emails from Gist Yarn. I confess, I have never purchased anything from their website, however, they share free patterns for anyone who visits their site. In the past couple of months, I have "ordered" about 5 of their free projects. It is easy to order their free patterns and such a great service that they offer. Someday I will repay their generosity by buying some of their wonderful yarn. But first I have to use up more stash and make room in my craft room.

Another great source of inspiration is right here in Sun City West at our own creative, talented Guild. There are some very talented weavers sitting at a loom or table next to us every day that are constantly creating magazine worthy projects. One of those weavers is our own Gloria Jacobs. Please read my introduction to Gloria's story about the rug she wove during Summer 2019. I was very inspired with her thorough process for such a wonderful gift.

So I encourage you to always look for inspiration. It can be found in so many places. Listen to a beautiful piece of music and decide what colors you hear in the song. Take a walk in colorful fallen leaves; walk along a sandy beach; or drive West into an Arizona sunset. Peek over the shoulder of the weaver in Studio 1.

Inspiration is all around us, just waiting to be woven into something wonderful.

Terri Reeves
Co-President
November 2019

Education Committee News

by Carol Byrnes

A Triangle Weaving Class, taught by Marilyn Hass-Haseman, began on October 23rd and continued for a few days after, until weavers completed their projects. Marilyn will offer the Triangle Weaving Class again, and we do have books and DVDs in the library for you to use if you would like to try this technology on your own.



A 4-shaft Double Weave Study Group facilitated by Sandy Hughes introduced members to new technologies during the month of October.



An 8-shaft Double Weave Study Group is being planned for the winter. Thank you Marilyn and Sandy for leading these classes.

On November 16, ten members will be taught Tapestry Weaving by Maria Conti.

Looking to the future, Saori weaving instructed by Laura Lundy will be repeated in January for all of those who missed her class in November of 2018. Some people enjoyed the class so much that they want to take it again. This will be followed up in February with a garment draping and construction techniques workshop also taught by Laura. In this class, you will learn how Saori yardage can be transformed into wearable art.

Felting Classes will be offered on February 10 and 11 by Patti Barker, the Arizona Federation's 2020 Traveling Teacher.

In March, our own Phyl Cipolla will instruct a round robin class on Rep weaving techniques.

Also planned for the fall/winter are "Bee in the Know" sessions, formerly known as Fix-it-Friday. Equipment Review will be offered in two sessions by Char Heins. These sessions will cover all of the "Tools of the Trade". WW accessory tools, such as the yarn reel and ball winder, twistors, and bobbin winders, will be highlighted. Ruth Michael will demonstrate Sectional Warping and Supplemental Warping.

Weaving 1 on the Rigid Heddle looms will be offered on November 20, 21 & 22, January 15, 16 & 17 and March 4, 5 & 6.

Weaving 2 on Table Top Looms featuring dressing the loom from the front to the back is being held on November 5, 6, 12 and 13.

Weaving 3 on Floor Looms featuring dressing the loom from the back to the front is being planned for the near future.

Please note that Weaving 1 is a prerequisite to Weaving 2 and Weaving 2 is a prerequisite to Weaving 3. However, dressing the loom either from the front to the back or back to front may be used on both the Table Top and Floor Looms.

Check It Out

by Peggy Marshall

The library committee recently completed an inventory of our library catalog and I am pleased to report that there were no missing items! The two books missing the previous year were still not found and may need to be declared gone forever. Let's give it one last try--members check if you have the book Compendium of Finishing Techniques by McEneely or Handwoven Scarves by Durant. They may not look like books, as they may appear as paper pamphlets.

My thanks go to Jean Sinchak, Jan Jordan, and Pat O'Neill for helping with this task and to Jean who took care of the library during my summer absence.

Summer Flashbacks!



In July of 2019, Catherine Porter and Carol Byrne attended a Zanshi and Sakiori Class taught by Tom Knisely at Red Stone Glen Fiber Arts Center in Pennsylvania. Zanshi and Sakiori fabrics have their roots in recycling Japanese fabrics. Sakiori (left) uses very narrow strips of fabric much like

a rag rug, but with a drape, weight and fineness that makes it suitable for clothing. Zanshi cloth (right) is woven with remnant threads from previously woven fabrics that are tied together to make one continuous length of thread in order to weave new fabrics.



(left) At the Red Stone Glen , Carol, Tom Knisley and Catherine.

Catherine and Carol will present this technology at an upcoming "Bee in the Know" with a class to follow if there are other members who would like to learn these creative techniques.

“Glorious Gloria” a featured artist for your inspiration

Introduction to Gloria Jacobs
by Terri Reeves

Gloria Jacobs joined Weavers West Guild in Oct 2013. She took the Beginning Weavers Class with Nancy Woods and Ronda Dostal with teachers Mary Claesson and Sue Butala. Gloria served as Newsletter Chair in 2014, Publicity Chair and Scrap Book in 2015, and then she was Treasurer from Oct. 2015 to Dec. 2017.

She has experimented with many weaving techniques since then. She made 4 Tom Knisely designs of weft-faced twill woven on opposites, a pair in light blue and white and a pair in red and green for her daughter in Pennsylvania last Fall. Also she wove another rag rug 40" X 60" for her new house, and placemats for the family table.

She has stored woven baby blankets for any up coming new great grandchildren and is expecting a great grandson in April 2020. She wove weft faced 36" x 60" Diamonds and Bars Twill Rug, and two scatter rugs for the Granddaughter and new Grandson who will soon be parents and have purchased a new home in Yuma. She has made two afghans for herself in her favorite color purple and is now learning Double Weave and plans to finish 2 throw pillows for her couch this month.

In addition she also has a big twinning loom at home and loves to try new twinning patterns. She is always eager to try something new in weaving.

I was fortunate enough to be weaving on the Dobby loom in June 2019 while Gloria was planning and sampling for a beautiful rug she wove for a grandson's wedding. Her process was impressive and thorough. She was such an inspiration and her completed project was amazing. We can all learn something from Gloria about how to start and finish a project. I hope you read her story and then congratulate her on a job well done.

“WOVEN WITH LOVE”

a collaboration of Gloria Jacobs and Terri Reeves

My grandson Mason and his fiancé Rachael visited my husband and I in July of 2018. They were at our house to tell us in person that they had planned an outdoor wedding for September 9, 2019 near Williams, AZ. We were so thrilled for them. During the time that we were visiting I showed them the weaving I had been doing lately. I have several rag rugs on the floor in various rooms and Rachael was very impressed. My soon to be granddaughter turned to me and said “Grandma, we plan on having our wedding vows in front of an altar outside in the forest. Will you make us a rug that we can stand on to be married?”

Of course, I responded that I would love to make them a wedding rug. I asked for color preferences and she showed me her plans with a photograph of the colors she wanted for their table linens and flower decorations for the tables. She explained she loved dark teal with Fall colors: reds, oranges, gold and brown. She also said it didn’t matter as long as she had something that I made.

After considerable thought I decided to weave a Krokbragd rug, which would incorporate all of the colors she liked. Krokbragd, meaning “crooked path”, is a Norwegian word for a particular weft-faced weaving technique. I planned for the rug to have 9 colors in 3 groups of 3 shades or colors. Three colors that coordinate with each other is one band. There are three bands of different color schemes that complement each other.

That sounded pretty simple until I went to the Yarn store to purchase 9 colors that complemented each other. Four stores and many hours of shopping and lots of comparing netted 9 colors that I was sure would all go fine together.

In March 2019 I decided that I would get an early start and reserve a small loom at Weavers West Guild to make samples to see how these colors would look together in the finished rug, before committing to the huge job of warping and weaving a 48” wide 90” long rug.

Sample one I liked the teal, but not necessarily the black for the dark color and a light grey for the light color. The red band was a dark red, an orange and gold, browns dark medium and light. I wasn’t happy with the Teal band colors with the red band. The red color in the red band was a purple red, not a bright and it just did not look good with anything.

So off to the yarn stores again to find a specific shade of red that went with the gold tones and to find something else to have in the teal band that complemented the teal instead of made it all black and so on. Two more samples sent me back to the store. Finally at the end of the month, the season color change in the yarn brought new colors to consider. It took a total of 23 colors to finally find nine that fit my expectations.

I had reserved a specific loom at the Guild call the Charles Loom, a giant heavy-duty floor rug loom. I thought 2 months, May and June, would be plenty of time to complete my task. Every day of the week and some weekends, I wove anywhere from 4 to 6 hours a day. After some personal interruptions, un-doing and re-doing some weaving to fix errors, the time came in late June to remove the rug from the loom.

It took 3 other weavers helping me across the width of the loom to remove this carpet from the loom. I did not realize I had woven such a large rug. I had been weaving based on how many bands of color I completed rather than actually measuring the length as I went.

A woven rug needs to rest for a while before doing the finish work on the ends. I was able to spread the rug over three tables at the studio to let it rest for a week. Then I began the finishing process by weaving the warp ends back into the rug. The tedious task took me about a week while working 2 hours a day. That rug was completed June 28, 2019.

With each throw of the shuttle I said prayers for the bride and groom and with every row finished I felt such happiness to have been asked to create this WEDDING RUG, WOVEN WITH LOVE for my grandchildren.

From Left to Right: Helpful weavers Karen, Jean and Vickie help Gloria untie all those warp threads, Gloria untied the last thread
Bottom: Gloria with the completed rug and Presenting Mr. and Mrs. !



Special Events

Bonnie Krause and Mary Hartzheim hosted our fall outdoor dinner in the Kuentz Courtyard on November 5th. The evening's weather could not have been more pleasant, so everyone lingered longer for conversation. Thanks to the great planning from our hostesses, such as placing perishables on ice, and the generosity of members (the toppings for the baked potatoes, side salads and desserts were plentiful and delicious), the event was a success!



Just a reminder to **save the date** for our **Weavers West December Banquet**, Friday, **December 13**, at Briarwood Country Club. The cost for members will be \$17 with a buffet style luncheon. Once again, we will be assisting the local firefighters with a toy drive, so please plan on bringing a new, unwrapped toy. Watch for more details and sign up from Special Events.

Our General Meeting on will be one week prior, on Friday, December 6, separate from the banquet this year, to discuss our December business. The Installation of Officers for our new 2020 Board will take place at the luncheon.

Mobius Continues in Popularity



Creating this garment works best on a rigid heddle loom. Melanie's approach was influenced by Saori: toss in anything you have to create texture and vibrant color mixes. Carol doubled her ends to create a different texture, then knotted her fringe in a criss-crossed pattern, shown here just prior to trimming to the desired length. Are you inspired to make one?



Four Days & Nights with Donna Lorraine Carpenter

by Pam Chumbley

Terri Reeves, Catherine Porter and I had a weaving adventure in early November in Albuquerque, New Mexico. We went to learn more about contemporary tapestry weaving and had high hopes of improving our techniques. Donna promised we would learn how to weave straight edges, make crisp diagonals and weave faster and better.

Donna Lorraine Carpenter is a locally recognized, New Mexico fiber artist who specializes in contemporary colorful weaving filled with hard angles and lines. Her gallery quality pieces can be seen in many New Mexico public buildings and galleries. She does mostly commission work. She hosted the three of us in her eclectic home in the Nob Hill neighborhood of Albuquerque for 4 nights. We wove in her garage studio for 5-6 hours each day.

Terri and Catherine and I enjoyed exploring the neighborhood finding great coffee shops and wonderful restaurants. Our weaving experience was challenging, but we did learn *Donna's Way* of weaving. We all worked on the same cartoon (pattern) and used the same color palette. As you can see in the photos of our finished work.

For more info on the artist: <https://donnalorrainecontractor.wordpress.com/>



Editor's News and Notes

by Diane Stern

Thank you, Terri, for setting a theme of "inspiration". In my visits to our guild, I do indeed find inspiration from our skilled weavers. There is always a new pattern I admire and want to try out! While I have not tried workshops beyond our walls, I find inspiration in my travels for adventure and to see family.



This vertical loom is actually in a glass display case at the American Girl store in Chicago. It is for the doll Josefina Montoya, who historically represents a New Mexican girl from 1824.

This painting, by Diego Rivera, is called "The Weaver". It hangs in the Art Institute of Chicago.





In a hidden corner of the Institute of Art is this floor to ceiling piece called “Private Affair1”, 1986, by Claire Zeisler (American, 1903-1991). It is made of hemp, with macrame, twisted and wrapped cords, and cut fringe. If I remember (LOL), I will show you a few other items from this display in future editions of our newsletter.

I hope you carry inspiration to your current and future creative projects. As we approach our celebrations for Christmas and Chanukah, I wish you all the best for a glowing and sparkling holiday season.

Another reminder, I reduce the size of photos to fit our newsletter pages, but you can increase the font and look at details of work through magnification on our website newsletter. There is value in electronic format! If you have trouble opening our website, just ask Marilyn H-H for help. There is always a print copy behind the front desk, which of course is fixed in one size!

Diane Stern, Newsletter Editor