

Weavers West

Guild News

Sun City West, AZ

March 2020



President's Corner: Terri Talks

Things have certainly changed a bit since I wrote my first draft for the president's column. After short notice of the closure of our Studio, along with the other facilities in the community, here is what we were able to accomplish on Thursday, March 12. We processed 20 weavers, who had agreed to adopt a loom for the planned guild closure, to pick up their equipment. I had some great helpers with Diane Conery, Mary Wilder and Kathleen Bloechel; they gathered equipment and moved looms via carts to cars. Then, Mary Claeson moved 7 more table looms to her home for storage. There are still some "adopters" who will hopefully be able to take more looms home to enjoy. Bonnie Krause and Angela Buxton came in and took care of some of the Guild business so we could leave knowing we were up to date on paying invoices and having our inventory in order. Paula and Gayle were

taking care of yarn customers and Bonnie was taking Craft Fair projects off the loom. Char and Pam were able to get some of our floor looms prepped for the move to the Stardust Theater. Pam Chumbley took care of clearing the rigid heddle cabinet. Diane Conery removed wall art and put it away for safekeeping. Thursday was a busy, but orderly and productive day. I can't thank every weaver who came in enough. You were all so cooperative and patient as we tried to condense our process. For those I didn't name, THANK YOU as well! So, again, thanks to everyone who was in the studio Thursday for all the work you accomplished. It made my job very easy. Stay tuned!

I will be sending out separate emails regarding the meeting I had with the SCW Maintenance staff about our packing and about upcoming business we still need to handle. If we are lucky enough to be back in two weeks, we will finalize the packing. Plans are to share a meal together, then say adios to the Weaving studios as we know it and take a break while it is remodeled. I personally am looking forward to the break. It has been hectic and challenging trying to keep up with all that needs to be done. I am constantly trying to think of what we may have overlooked in the planning for the new space. But you know what – I usually just calm down and relax and realize that this membership is so creative and thoughtful that whatever we overlooked will be easily fixed. There's nothing that can't be improved upon. I know we will get it all done.

There has been an incredible amount of activity in the Guild studios this year. I applaud the Education Committee for everything they did for us these first few months of 2020. We have seen many new weavers work their way through Weaving I, II, and III. Then we watched experienced, or more seasoned weavers, tackle new techniques like felting and sewing beautiful woven cloth into one-of-a-kind wearable garments. I saw projects on inkle looms and triangle looms. So many ways to experiment with the craft we are all here to learn. We appreciate all the tips and tools that have been presented to enable us to improve our weaving. There is still opportunity to participate in a couple of more fun activities, so please check those calendars.

I also applaud Bonnie Benson and all her helpers on leading the preparation so far for the Fall Craft Show. This is a wonderful time for our re-entry into the community fair. I know our booth is going to be awesome.

Looking forward to seeing everything we create to show off our talented group. I know there is more work to be done, but again, I know we will get it done.

During all this activity it was sometimes challenging to find a quiet moment to count warp threads or dress looms. Thank you for your patience and understanding. Not once did I see a temper tantrum or meltdown from the gracious members we have. Stay calm and count to 10 and we will get through this last month of the old studio.

That brings me to the next phase.....Packing up. I know there are some experienced travelers and movers in this group, so everybody knows what to do to move out for the remodel. Now what's that old saying? "Many hands make light work" or something like that. So finish your weaving projects, then rest up for a few days. When we get the boxes and the bubble wrap out, you are ready and willing to help.

It's been a pleasure to work on this remodel project and I'm very excited to see it get closer to the end. Ya'll take care and stay healthy. Keep weaving and creating.

Terri Reeves, President

Newcomers Coffee

On January 16, Kathleen B and Angela set up a booth at the RH Johnson Social Hall to promote our club. They talked to new members of our SCW community about the guild and demonstrated the rigid heddle loom and spinning.



Programs by Peggy Marshall

Peggy hosted an evening of movies and popcorn on January 28. She featured videos on the Hubbell Trading Post and facilitated a discussion about Navajo blankets. This was an important source of information, prior to the opportunity to bid on blankets donated to our guild.



Guild's February Dates Packed:



Patti Barker started her felting class on February 10, then gave a lecture in the morning of February 11 to the guild before concluding her class. It was fun to see how the cloth was initially laid out on tables and then see how each member was able to model wearable art by the end of the lessons.



Patti's sample garments









Laura Lundy returned to WW February 17 and 18. She taught a class on Garment Design and Construction.

Orientation Tour

The Members at Large Committee chairs Mary Wilder and Kathleen Bloechl led a tour through the studios on Friday, February 21 at 1 pm. Among their topics touched upon, they explained how to check out DVDs, magazines and books from our library.



Be(e) in the Know by Char Heines

A large crowd took advantage of Char Heines presentation of Tools of the Trade, on February 21, at 2 pm. Of particular interest was how to use temples. Comments, or suggestions for future sessions can be sent to Char Heines at chpraise@live.com





Show & Tell

, hosted by Char on February 28, gave Saori weavers a chance to model wearables or show their yardage.





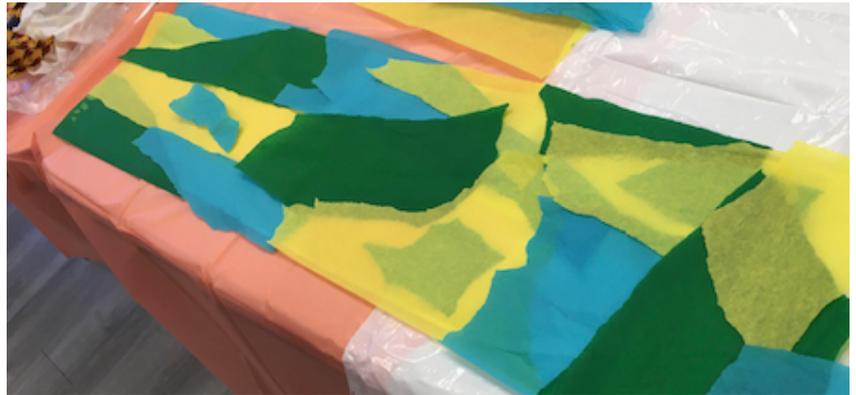


< Beading in fringe



Crafts Fair for Fall 2020

Bonnie Benson is steering the guild toward having a booth in the fall SCW Arts and Crafts fair. Paula Dean set up Larry's Loom with several feet of carpet warp. A dedicated handful of weavers took a turn weaving plastic strips to create the ever popular totes to sell. Bonnie hosted a silk scarf dying event on Saturday, February 29. There were two choices: to use Spectra art tissue with vinegar/water or silk ties, both laid upon silk scarves. ever available option was used to dye the scarves.







Education Committee News

by Carol Byrne

WEAVING I, II and III Classes

Weaving I was offered on March 2-4 by the Weaving I team. The Education Committee is looking for volunteers to participate in a **Weaving II Team** based on the success of the **Weaving I** format. This format will insure that students are being taught consistently and each team member will share in teaching and assisting roles throughout the year. If you would like to be a **Weaving II Team** Member, please contact Carol Byrne.

Thank you to Char Heins, Peggy Marshall and Bonnie Benson for teaching **Weaving III** for the first time in February. **Weaving III** will be offered again in November. This is an optional class designed for Table Top Loom Weavers who want some guidance in expanding their skills to include back to front weaving and floor loom weaving.

2020 and 2021 STUDY GROUPS

The Education Committee is planning to offer monthly Study Groups from November thru May. A clip board is located in the Education Box behind the Monitor's Desk in Studio 1 listing the various Study Groups under consideration. As soon as we are able to return the guild, please sign up for all of those in which you would like to participate and indicate which months you would be available to participate. Please also suggest other Study Group topics that would be of interest to you.

Rigid Heddle by Pamela Chumbley

Have completed Weaving I: Rigid Heddle Weaving? What is offered next at Weavers West? Rigid heddle weaving has many opportunities to explore on your own or with the guidance of several online instructors. You **CAN** teach yourself by watching a series of classes by one instructor, YOUTUBE videos or just purchasing an individual workshop for less than \$5!



Suggested Online Instructors:

- Kelly Casanova <https://kelly-casanova-weaving-lessons.teachable.com/>

"I have a yearly membership to Kelly's online weaving school, and it is fantastic. She very clearly is able to show techniques that would benefit beginner and advanced weavers. There is often new content put up and she is available and willing to help with questions. As a newer weaver the best part is how comfortable she makes you feel and the confidence she instills to get you going on a new or even first project! I love being a member of her school and would recommend it to anyone who wants to learn weaving."

- Angela Tong <https://shop.mybluprint.com/weaving/classes/rigid-heddle-weaving/35181>

A certified instructor through the Craft Yarn Council of America, she leads workshops all over the New Jersey area and teaches classes online. You can find Angela's knitwear and crochet designs in magazines such as Knitscene and Knit Simple and in the book Knit Noro Accessories. You can also browse her work on her blog, Angela Tong Designs.

- Tamara Poff <https://www.poffstudio.com/>
- Webs <https://www.yarn.com/categories/classes?craft%5B%5D=Weaving>
- Liz Gipson <https://yarnworker.com/school/>
- Grace O'Neil https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCHDrPE2bhGHqKYMPJ3_RtSg

- iTess Earle <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCAVms6PovYYmfoZiYOQIQdw>
- iAmy D. McKnight <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCIJEAR4FAtxjXuJJKSAZlcQ>

The Rigid Heddle Team is preparing for our guild reopening in the fall with a new class schedule. Weaving I will be offered four times a year; November, January, March and May as an introductory instructional class on a rigid heddle loom. The format includes a lead instructor and 3 assistants for each session series. If you have taken the Weaving I class, please consider joining the TEAM! It is a great way to reinforce what you have learned by helping others learn. You will meet and get to know new members of Weavers West and support Weavers West by growing our membership. If you are willing to help beginning weavers by joining the Rigid Heddle Team for 2020-21 please contact:

Kathleen Bloechl, kathleensue18@gmail.com, (262) 271-7758 or
Pam Chumbley, pchumbley@gmail.com, 414-207-5372

Federation by Esther Federman

Arizona Federation of Weavers and Spinners Guilds was very pleased with the success of our recent Traveling Teacher workshop, presented by Patti Barker, Felted Garment Specialist. When several of our members modeled their garments, it was quite amazing to see how something looking so professional could be taught and produced in such a short time. Also it was really nice to see how pleased the participants were. We got the same feedback from other guilds in Arizona, and it really makes our efforts so worthwhile when we have this kind of outcome. It is really enjoyable and interesting to have exposure to fiber artists who often inspire and challenge us to try various disciplines.

We are now working diligently on acquiring another Traveling Teacher for 2021 and 2022. These choices must be made far in advance, as the really good teachers are often booked up far in advance. We have found this to be a very helpful asset to all the guilds in Arizona, as costs to all of us are much less because Federation absorbs some of those costs, and some

costs can be shared by the guilds, making it possible for more people to participate.

Here are selection of several possible teachers, and are awaiting your responses. If you have not responded to the survey on a clipboard at the guild, this is your opportunity to research these teachers. Upon return to the guild, please answer the survey, or respond to Esther with your suggestions. esthar9@cox.net

Traveling Teacher Proposals and Questionnaire

Carol James (www.spranglady.com) is a fiber artist who specializes in ancient textile forms. She teaches classes in:

Sprang

Finger weaving

Heather Winslow (<https://fineline.org/pages/textiles-faculty>) is a fiber artist specializing in nature-inspired, classical hand-woven clothing. She teaches weaving, knitting, spinning, dyeing, beading and embellishment. Some of her specialty workshops include:

Theo Moorman techniques

Weaving with New Millennium Fibers

Nikyle Wes is a Navajo fiber artist who lives in Ganado, Arizona. Nikyle teaches classes in:

Navajo Weaving

Navajo Spinning

Daryl Lancaster (www.daryllancaster.com) is a weaver who specializes in garment construction. The classes she offers include:

Garment construction in general and with handwoven fabric

Inkle loom – different levels

Inspiration for the color challenged

Closures

Creative seam and edge finishes

For each instructor listed below, please indicate whether your guild would be likely to participate in the event that instructor were selected as a traveling teacher in 2021 or 2022.

Carol James (available in 2021 or 2022):

Heather Winslow (availability not yet confirmed):
Nikyle Wes (available in 2021 or 2022):
Daryl Lancaster (only available in 2022):

Please rank the instructors above with respect to your preference:

First Choice:

Second Choice:

Third Choice:

Fourth Choice:

If you have any questions regarding Federation, or would like to attend a meeting, I think you would find it interesting. You are always welcome. I am always available to give you information...just ask! Esthar9@cox.net

Project Linus by Jan Jordan

Project Linus is one of Weavers West's designated charity beneficiaries. The recipients are children who are seriously ill, traumatized or otherwise in need of a gift. The blankets given are more than security blankets, as they provide comfort and love.

Our membership has contributed over 200 blankets since our 2015 Christmas Luncheon. Esther Federman says she donated 47 love offerings last year. Hopefully, over the summer months we can create a new batch of blankets to donate this fall. When the new studio reopens, there will once again be a cabinet to collect our handmade blankets and afghans . I will deliver our contributions to the West Valley Chapter as the cabinet fills up.

Spinners by Pat O'Neill

Weavers West Spinners attended the annual Spinning Bee February 29th. Hosted by the Artistic Handweavers and Spinners of Sun City, it was such great fun to sit, spin, and chat with those that most of us only see once a year. About 30 spinners attended this event. A great luncheon was served, and everyone waited anxiously with raffle tickets in hand for the many wonderful prizes and gift baskets.



Next year's event will be hosted by the Arizona Desert Weavers and Spinners (Diane Wilson reported she now has 30 wheels, including her new 3D printed Nano spinner).



Weaver of the Month by Barb Wood

We were pleased to showcase Bonnie Benson as our February "Weaver of the Month". March celebrates the very talented Mary Claesson. Hopefully, you were able to see her beautiful creations in the window. If not, make it a point to look in the windows when Kuentz reopens. This will be the last Weaver of the Month until we return in the Fall.

Note: The March 20 presentation by Catherine Porter and Carol Byrne on the Zanshi and Sakiori class they attended at Red Stone Glen, taught by Tom Knisely, will be rescheduled

Editor's News and Notes by Diane Stern

The philosophy of Yin-Yang plays repeatedly in my head. Health, strength and fluid motion while I am in line dance, followed by pain, weakness and physical therapy instead. One day I have a very good Tai Chi teacher in the Yoga Studio, the next week I don't. I find a new teacher and then the all activities are shut down. Looms in motion, looms tied down for a move to storage. One day my dad is alive and a few days later the finality of a funeral. Plans for concerts, cancellations and being home instead. The one constant to be counted on is that everything has an opposite. So when you weave and need to retro weave, sew and rip out, it seems to be the nature of the universe. In sickness and in health, humanity will continue, too.

By the way, my trees gave me an abundance of citrus, so I am using the time at home to juice, make sorbet and more. In fact, if you need any oranges or grapefruits, I would love to share. You can come by and pick by yourself, no contact with crowds.

May we all stay healthy and strong!

Diane Stern, Editor