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# handweavers guild of boise valley, inc.

## General Guidelines and Information

### Historical Background

The Handweavers Guild of Boise Valley, Inc. was formed in 1972 by a group of weavers and spinners in the Boise, Idaho, area. Margaret Martin, who moved here from the Seattle area, was the driving force behind the formation of the guild. She had been very active in the Seattle guild. The group incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1978.

The purposes of the guild are to “carry on, study and foster the arts and crafts of handweaving, spinning and fiber arts.”

The Handweavers Guild of Boise Valley, Inc. holds monthly meetings and over the years has hosted yearly workshops in handweaving and spinning. In 1989 the guild planned and hosted “Fiber ‘89”, the Association of Northwest Weavers Guilds’ biennial conference.

Our members are a diverse population. They weave, spin, dye, knit, crochet, sew, bead, felt, make baskets, and create with fiber. The members are the guild’s greatest resource, offering a wide array of expertise. The guild works to foster all members, from novice to expert. Mentoring is encouraged among guild members.

In recent years the guild has been an active participant in Museum Comes to Life, a living history event held every September at the Idaho Historical Museum in Boise. Guild members demonstrate weaving and spinning and also display their work as part of a Guild Challenge.

Three of our members have achieved the high distinction of Master Weaver from the Handweaver’s Guild of America. The achievement is received upon completion of the Certificate of Excellence Program sponsored by the international organization.

### General Information

- I. Monthly Meetings
  - A. The Guild meets from September through June on the first Saturday of the month. Meetings are held at 11:30 a.m. at the Adelman House at the Idaho Historical Museum in Boise.
  - B. The meeting consists of a business meeting to plan events, exchange information and share through “Show and Tell.” After a short break, an educational program is presented about some aspect of working with fiber.
- II. Sample Agenda for monthly meetings
  - A. Welcome
  - B. Reports of Officers and Committee Chairs
  - C. Other business or announcements
  - D. Show and Tell
  - E. Break for Social Time
  - F. Program
- III. It is important that Guild Officers familiarize themselves with the Bylaws, Policies, and all of the roles of the officers and committees of the guild.

- IV. Basic Robert's Rules Information: A motion is made, a second is received; then you must always ask for discussion. The vote is taken when the discussion is concluded. The membership should vote on any major decisions, especially if money is involved. A written ballot should be used for any major decision.
- V. The Guild Address is - P. O. Box 6258, Boise, Idaho 83701. The P. O. Box is located at the Main Post Office on 13th Street. Post Office Box fees are due in October, and we usually only get a couple weeks notice for this, so be prompt. It is a hassle to have to change the P. O. Box numbers.
- VI. The rent for the Adelman House is minimal, at \$15 per day. Our attitude in the past has been that we help the Museum maintain and improve the facility to ensure that we will continue to be able to meet there.
- VII. We have, in the past, wanted members to volunteer without monetary compensation when giving programs. Any outside speaker asked to give a program is usually given a small honorarium for sharing information with the guild.
- VIII. Our Guild is a member of the Association of Northwest Weavers Guilds (ANWG). We pay dues yearly to them. The amount is calculated on the number of members we have in our guild.
- IX. Our guild is a member of the Handweaver's Guild of America. We receive the publication Shuttle, Spindle, and Dyepot as a benefit of this membership. This is a group membership, and it does not give individual members of the Handweavers' Guild of Boise Valley registration discounts at Convergence.
- X. We subscribe to several periodicals. They come to the P.O. Box. Then they are given to the Librarian for processing into the Library. They include:
  - A. Handwoven
  - B. Shuttle, Spindle, and Dyepot
  - C. Spin Off
- XI. Challenge
  - A. The Guild Challenge is an event designed to keep members excited about weaving and spinning. The Challenge committee develops a fiber challenge each year – based on color, fiber, structure, or other design parameters. Members then create items within the parameters, and enter those items in the Challenge.
  - B. All of the entries are set up for display at Museum Comes to Life and the public votes on the items they like best. Because the voting is based on “the peoples’ choice,” beginning weavers, spinners and fiber artists have a good chance of winning a cash prize. The event also demonstrates to the public the variety, creativity and diversity that can be found in working with fiber.

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