

Connecting Threads

Handweavers Guild of Boise Valley
April, 2016

April Program: Kumihimo

~~ by Melanie Smith

Kumihimo is a Japanese braiding technique. We will be learning a bit of the history and how to make a basic braid. Cardboard disks, and threads will be provided. Plus, you will receive instructions on how to make a bracelet from thrums or other scrap threads and yarns. Please bring a pair of scissors and \$2 if you would like to choose a large bead and a closure for your bracelet. There will be a few foam disks available for sale at a very minimal price. Also, if you have some thrums you would like to use, you are welcome to bring them. They will need to be at least a yard long. If you have any questions, please email Melanie.



Calendar of Events

- April 2, 2016 - COE Study Group
10:00 to 11:00 a.m.
Before the regular meeting
- April 2, 2016 - Regular Guild Meeting
11:30 a.m. - Business Meeting
12:30 a.m. - Program - **Kumihimo**, by Melanie Smith
At the Church
2201 Woodlawn, Boise - near State Street & 23rd
- April 6 & 20, 2016 - Knit and Crochet Group
1:00 to 3:00 p.m.
Aero Cafe
- April 12, 2016 - Bobbin Lace Study Group
10:00 a.m.
Vila Cox's Home
- April 14, 2016 - Spinning Study Group
6:30 to 8:30 p.m.
Maralyn Larson's Club House in Meridian
- April 18, 2016 - Rug Punch and Needle Punch Meeting
2:00 p.m.
Jinks Hunter's Home
- April 19, 2016 - Day Weaving Study Group
1:30 p.m.
Julie Gerrard's Home



Nominations Announcement:

Slate of Officers for the 2016-2017 Year

- * Vila Cox, President
- * Julie Gerrard, Vice President
- * Lily Lee, Vice President
- * Joan Sheehan, Secretary
- * Kathy McGowan, Treasurer
- * Rebecca Winter, Membership Officer

Remember, we vote on the slate of new officers during the April meeting. If you cannot make it, you may mail in a signed ballot. Use the guild P.O. Box 6258, Boise, ID 83707. They will be collected just before the meeting.

- ◆ Mitzi Meyer, Nominations Chair

Next Spring's Tea Party - June 11

We are offering a challenge to our members for the Spring Tea Party. Make anything you wish using the Bigelow Tea Bag String (TBS). Put on your thinking and designing caps. It can be weaving, spinning, crochet, or any fiber technique.

If you would like to make something or would just like to play with TBS, you can get some from Mary Berent, Lily Lee or Mitzi Meyers. It really is nice yarn to work with and makes great, functional fabric in lots of weave structures.

Remember, some of the Bigelow Tea people are planning to come to the June meeting. Let's really show them what we can do with free yarn!!

- ◆ Mary Berent, TBS Aficionado

From Your President

Presidential Ramblings~

Spring is heading our way and soon we may be spending more time outside in the garden than at the loom. I am looking forward to the new growth and feeling of renewal that Spring brings. Hopefully it will also inspire some new ideas and projects for all of us to explore when we do find time to weave, spin, or work on one of the many fiber addictions we all seem to have.

❖ Vila Cox, President

Membership

I am proud of our group. We don't protest each other's fabric ideas and choices, we celebrate them!

Membership in the Handweaver's Guild of Boise provides an opportunity to meet new friends, and to learn new things. Welcome to new members Martie Hawkins, Cheryl Wurtenberger, Heidi Palmer and Candace Van Hout.

❖ Irene Chandler, Membership Officer

April Sample - Handspun Yarn

This month our sample is from Julie Gerrard. It is a beautiful handspun yarn of wool, angora rabbit and sari silk. ❖ Greta Ankeny, Sample Chair



Sample Exchange Box

Members may pull samples from the Sample Exchange Box at each regular guild meeting. And remember to check your name off the list in each file folder. If you would like to participate or have questions, contact the Sample Chairperson. Also, remember, there are samples from last year that are available to anyone toward the back of the box.



UFO Program - Un-Finished Object

Keep those UnFinished Objects coming! It's always fun for the members to see what can be done with something that has been out of touch and out of sight for a while. Sometimes we forget what has been lurking at the bottom of our sewing cabinet or our knitting basket. Show your old project some attention and it will be happy. So will you.

❖ Irene Chandler, UFO Chairman

Study Group News

♥ Wednesday Knit and Crochet Group

First and third Wednesdays at the Aero Cafe, 1 to 3 pm.

♥ Spinning Study Group

We will once again meet at Maralyn's club house for spinning, chatting and all around good time **April 14th** from 6:30 to around 8:30. Our theme is your favorite color, so bring something in your favorite color to spin.

♥ Day Weaving Study Group

The Day Weaving study group will meet at the home of Julie Gerrard on Tuesday **April 19th** at 1.30pm. All are welcome.

♥ Rug Punch and Needle Punch Meeting

The Rug Punch and Needle Punch Meeting will be at Jinks Hunter's Boise home at 12030 Savage Drive on Monday **April 18** from 2 to 4 p.m. Everyone is welcome including traditional rug hookers.

♥ Bobbin Lace Study Group

Bobbin lace study group will meet **April 12th**, 10am, at Vila's house.

♥ Certificate of Excellence (COE) Study Group

The COE Study Group will meet **April 2**, before the regular guild meeting at the Church at 10:00. Everyone is welcome. If you have questions call Mary Berent 939-8906.

Website

<http://www.handweavers-guild-boise.org>

Officers and Chairs

President: Vila Cox 323-7736

Vice-presidents: Lynn Ruggles 375-9172

& Melanie Smith 385-0085 or cell 608-0101

Secretary: Janet Stanger 377-0746

Treasurer: Kathy McGowan 939-7215

Membership Officer: Irene Chandler 318-8182

Librarians: Cindy Schafer 375-6736

& Mitzi Meyers 208-584-3116

Web Master: Vila Cox 323-7736

Newsletter Editor: Rebecca Winter 859-2822

Sample Exchange: Greta Ankeny 318-6028

Spinning Study Group: Melanie Smith 385-0085

Weaving Intensive & Day Weaving Study Group: Anne Oglevie
208-994-2725

COE Study Group: Mary Berent 939-8906

Rug Punch Study Group: Jinx Hunter 867-2953

Bobbin Lace Study Group: Vila Cox 323-7736

UFO Challenge: Irene Chandler 318-8182

Rug Punch & Needle Punch Meeting: Pat Day Hartwell 459-4324

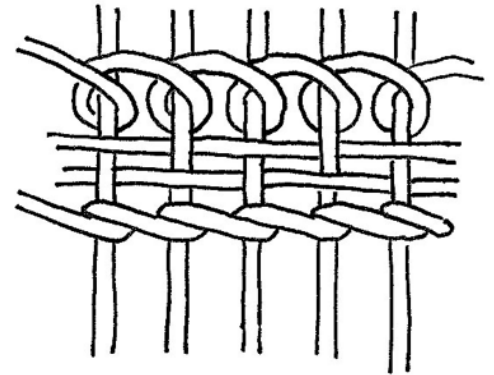
Update to the March "Finishing of Handwovens" Program

When the question was asked "What is soumak," I referred to it as weft-twining. However, a more accurate explanation would be that soumak is warp wrapping. According to Peter Collingwood in his book *The Techniques of Rug Weaving*, soumak is used along with a weft faced ground structure and the soumak weft wraps around warp ends in regular intervals with a stitch which is more like embroidery than weaving. The wrapping or looping around the warp ends creates a raised surface, which if used singly at the break between a tapestry face and a hem, will create a nice ridge to transition in to the fold of your hem. Soumak is a decorative stitch, and therefore is most often used with some other technique which forms the structure or ground of the weaving.

The soumak stitch I was referencing in the program is referred to as a 2/1 non-locking soumak. The weft traveled over 2 warp ends and back under 1, over 2, back under 1, etc. = 2/1. Non-locking refers to laying each soumak weft loop on top of the previous loop as you move forward. This technique does not create a knot so the loops can easily loosen. Either a locking or non-locking technique could be used at the edge of a hem. I chose the non-locking, because I was using one weft continuously between the weft faced picks and the soumak, so I knew the soumak would remain secure. If you are inserting a new weft for soumak, you might consider using the locking method as well as securing your ends.

I highly recommend Peter Collingwood's book, *The Techniques of Rug Weaving*, which is available in the guild library. If you are interested in learning more about soumak, you will find it in Chapter 6, "Weft-face Rugs in Plain Weave, Part Three: Techniques Giving A Raised Surface Decoration," starting on page #183. This chapter includes many illustrations of soumak along with a brief history of the technique, clear explanations and directions.

◆ Cynthia Newman



HANDSPUN

My wife sits in her swivel chair
ringed by skeins of multicolored yarn
that will become the summer sweater
she has imagined since September.

Her hand rests on the spinning wheel
and her foot pauses on the pedals
as she gazes out into the swollen river.
Light larking between wind and current
will be in this sweater, so will a shade of
red she saw when the sun went down.

When she is at her wheel, time moves
like the tune I almost recognize now
that she begins to hum it, a lulling
melody born from the draft of fiber,
clack of spindle and bobbin,
soft breath as the rhythm takes hold.

by Floyd Skloot

This poet lives in Oregon, and his most recent book is *Approaching Winter*, from Louisiana State University Press. Poem offered to the Newsletter by Kathy Shiflet.



Advertisement

AVL 60" Production Dobby Loom and accessories For Sale by original owner.
Solid maple, excellent condition. 16 Harnesses w/ lots of extra Texsol heddles and 5 reeds. Comes with AVL manual. This loom has a built-in bench, bottom- swing beater with double-box flyshuttle, 3 shuttles, extra bobbins and an electric bobbin winder. It features a mechanical dobby head with extra dobby bars and pegs for long pattern repeats, two 1-yard sectional warp beams, plus standard warp beam, aprons and warp beam flanges. Includes tension box, yardage counter, track and mounting system for sectional warping as well as cone rack for 48 cones or spools.

\$ 4200

Contact Candy Meacham

Home: (360) 671-9079

Cell: (360) 220-1203

candy.meacham@earthlink.net

Location: Bellingham, WA



Back To Our Roots 2016 Challenge

From an historical background, create projects that reflect your roots or roots you have an interest in or feel a connection to. Based on where your family is originally from, where you were born, a place you have lived that is special to you, or any other connection you feel for a heritage you have an interest in.

As inspiration you may use fiber, color, location, scenery, culture, flags (just to name a few) to come up with creations in the following categories.

Categories:

Flat handwoven items – Colors, Fibers or weave structures – includes yardage and hemmed or fringed pieces (scarves, towels rugs, etc.)

Handspun skeins – Colors or fibers that represent your roots

Made from hand spun yarn – must be made from handspun yarn that would qualify as handspun skein this year

Fiber Arts – Items made from handspun or other fiber arts practiced in our Guild that fit the theme

All entries must be made by you between November 2015 and September 2016.

Please include a short sentence with each entry describing how it connects to your “roots”.

Registration is due by Saturday September 17th, so finished Items including entry form with description should be turned in by September 17. In order to present the public with a uniformity in identification of each item, cards for each item will be printed out prior to day of event.

Last minute items will be accepted the morning of Museum Comes to Life if they are registered in advance so the cards explaining the roots description can be printed.



Budget for 2016-2017

Income - Yearly	
Advertising	\$60.00
Guild Sale	\$100.00
Interest	\$2.00
Membership dues (based on 55 members)	\$1375.00
Workshop fees	\$2900.00
Intensive fees	\$400.00
	\$4837.00

Expenses - Yearly	
Challenge supplies	\$60.00
Directory expenses	\$100.00
Memberships ANWG/HGA	\$100.00
Study group	\$50.00
UFO Projects	\$50.00
Self-Insurance-Library	\$400.00
Misc/memorials	\$175.00
Newsletter expenses	\$175.00
PO Box rent	\$98.00
Library	\$200.00
Postage	\$50.00
Programs	\$50.00
Meeting room rental (church)	\$320.00
Library room rental	\$120.00
Subscriptions (<i>Spin Off, Handwoven, VAV</i>)	\$145.00
Workshop expenses	\$2500.00
Intensive expenses	\$400.00
	\$4993.00



Welcome Spring

Connecting Threads
PO Box 6258
Boise ID 83707

The monthly newsletter from the



handweavers guild of boise valley, inc.

