

Connecting Threads

**Handweavers Guild of Boise Valley
February, 2021**



Zoom Meeting for February 6, 2021

Watch for the email with the Zoom Link

The February program will be given by Connie Griffin. She has been interested in knitting machines since the 1990's, although only actually started learning about them and using them in 2012. Connie will talk about the differences and similarities between hand knitting and weaving compared to the use of a knitting machine. Watch for an email prior to the February meeting to see a YouTube video introduction. Demonstration of techniques will be given during the presentation after the meeting and questions are welcomed and encouraged.



Twill Immersion Workshop Date Change!

Mary Berent's Twill Immersion Workshop has been rescheduled to Friday June 11, Saturday June 12, and Sunday June 13, 2021. The new dates will accommodate the current Covid-19 vaccination schedule and hopefully provide a safer environment in which to gather and study.

The Handweavers' Guild of Boise Valley is very grateful for Bowmont Church's willingness to help provide a safer timeline to provide this workshop. If these new dates are not acceptable, the new cancellation deadline for full refund becomes midnight, May 11, 2021. All current paid registrations will be rolled forward and no further action is necessary.

Because of this unprecedented community health situation, only Paid Registrants and the Instructor will be allowed inside the building, regardless of vaccination status. No Visitors. Participants are required to provide their own food, beverages, snacks, facial masks, gloves, and sanitizer. There will be extra PPE for emergencies and surfaces maintenance.

Thank you for your patience and understanding. The Guild anticipates a pleasantly rewarding and insightful experience in looking forward to June!

♥ Mary Chown, Vice President

From Your President

Hello fellow Guild Members,

Just think, Groundhog Day is fast coming upon us. What will it be? Six more weeks of indoor fibre projects or start yard and garden work? We haven't received as much moisture as usual so far, but there is still time for spring showers and flowers. Just think of the spring color palette to choose from after a nice spring rain and the sun comes out to form the most beautiful rainbow. Good visual there, I thought I saw a rainbow the other day, but the fog was too thick to tell for sure. Then we have Valentines Day, chocolate dipped strawberries, red roses, red wine with sharp white cheese, and crackers of choice. Another busy month of holidays.

We have been spinning and weaving and working with colors of all sorts this past winter season, I hope. From spin-alongs to sing-alongs to weave-alongs, let the color flow. Stash busting, the thought has occurred to me (some of you actually accomplished the feat), but I needed more of a plan for the draft stage. Now, I'm not a draft dodger, just sometimes the profile needs to match the purpose. What's the purpose? Well, stash busting is nothin like mutton busting, but wool yarn comes from the breed so there may be a need to reduce the pile.

Speaking of the pile, have you looked in the back corner of your all-purpose room? If there is a sheep there, give it back please, our pasture is becoming over-grown with grass and it is hard on the horse to try and eat all of it.

Back to spinning, weaving, felting, beading, braiding and staying well – how have all of you been doing this past month? It was great to see more of you at the zoom guild meeting. Although it is hard not to visit in person like we all want to do soon, at least we get to do visuals on each other. Also, we get to share recently completed projects. So don't forget, zoom is not hard to get used to using, just approach it with baby steps. As always, there are members out there who are willing to help you get up and running.

I recently acquired an old book by Harriet Tidball that is about understanding weaving. Reading is slow, but I want to come away from it with a better understanding of structure and its relation to form.

◆ Fibre on my Fiber Friends, Doug Ranck, President



Simple Challenge 2021

How about a simple little fiber challenge to start the new year? I thought this one up after doing a bit of a sort with my fiber and yarn. Yikes! I do love to spin and I really have a lot of handspun yarn!

Here's the Challenge:

Rules: There's only **one rule** – you must use handspun yarn

Suggestions, Ideas, parameters for your project:

- o Use some handspun yarn you have hanging around
- o Start with fiber and spin some yarn to use for your project
- o No handspun handy? Just pick up some of Penny Schrafnagle's handspun at Mitzi's. It's really lovely yarn and reasonably priced. (Penny isn't able to spin now, so her family wants her handspun to be used and asked Mitzi to sell it for them.)
- o Use whatever skill that suits your fancy to make your project – knit, crochet, punch, weave, ? (I was just thinking knitting at first, but realized including other skills would open up this to more folks!)
- o Do something easy and relaxing or push yourself with something new.
- o Start / finish? Whatever fits you schedule and motivation
- o Let's keep in touch and share our progress on our projects. Here's some ways to do that:
 - Share your progress by sending an email to Guild email group main@boiseguild.groups.io (do keep in mind that messages sent to groups.io go to everyone in the guild and that every response also goes to everyone in the guild..)
 - Send a pic and description to Rebecca for newsletter
 - Share at monthly Guild zoom Meeting
 - Join in one of the zoom groups for discussion and sharing with other fiber folks. Zoom invite info is sent to the guild groups.io look for in your email
- o Hook, Spin, Knit, Gab - every Thursday 2-4pm (sometimes 5pm)
- o Fiberistas - 2nd Thursday 7-9 pm

Let's have some fiber fun! I look forward to seeing your project in progress!

One more thing – if anyone wants to do something more in depth – the Spin Together Facebook group is doing a "Selfish Make-A-Long" project which involves spinning in Jan and knitting Feb. A few more rules and deadlines, but can work with in this challenge and sounds like fun too.

◆ Jinks Hunter



Study Groups

Garment Study Group

We will meet Tuesday, March 30, 10:30 by Zoom. If we are able to change to an in-person meeting an announcement will be posted on the Guild groups.io the week prior to our meeting.

Questions? Call Greta Ankeny – Information in Guild directory



Hello to all of our Fiberistas and Spinners!

The Handweaver's Guild of Boise Valley artisans interested in spinning met Thursday eve, January 14. Despite the insistent interruptions from a variety of cats (Boots, Callie, Rodney, Scruffy, and the sweet toothless old man), a lively discussion about ideas and plans for virtual, and eventual in-person, events was held.

As we shared our thoughts on how the study group should work, it became clear that the group's main interest is to gather socially as opposed to studying. In fact some said that they probably wouldn't participate in a formal "study," although they would be happy to hear updates from those who do. That said, there is a group of spinners who are in favor of doing either independent or group study. There was no decision on a study topic and instead we agreed to continue the discussion at our next meeting.

Joan Ranck shared an article from an online UK spinning group with a fun idea for a short and sweet type of spinners challenge, where people will spin a sample project based on randomly drawing 4 or 5 cards from a deck that describe a variety of spinning attributes. We're still working on exactly how we can re-create this type of challenge as part of our Study Group. Look for more information and a better description via email as we figure things out. We'll be asking for your creative input!

We have decided to meet monthly on the 2nd Thursday of the month from 7-9 pm, virtually for now. Mark your calendars for our next meeting on February 11 and look for an email with Zoom meeting info shortly. We hope to meet in person once the weather allows us to sit outdoors and spread out.

Dagmar Rapp



Day Weaving Study Group

We will meet again February 16th, at 10:30am via Zoom. I'll send out the link a day or two before the meeting. It is great to see what everyone is working on and see your smiling faces!

Vila Cox



Hook, Spin, Knit, Gab

We meet every Thursday 2-4 pm (sometimes 5pm) via Zoom.

Jinks Hunter





TWILL IMMERSION

a three day workshop By Mary Berent

Twill is usually the very first threading on the very first project new weavers learn. Some mistakenly think that it's something to move away from as they know more. There is SO much to learn about twill. We will be looking at network twill, advancing or skip twill, M & W twill, undulating twill, plaited twill, twill blocks, combination twill, extended twill and of course, straight, point and broken twills! Two days will be a round robin workshop so you will get a chance to weave on various twill threadings, but you will spend one day on your own loom trying different treadlings and perhaps tie-ups. Lectures will start at the beginning about what makes a twill a twill, and continue through really learning how to construct your own twills, invent or modify tie-ups, add attractive borders to your patterns, and how to combine different twills for your own unique designs. We will talk about reducing and increasing the number of shafts/ harnesses needed for patterns and the huge diversity of what you can do with the shafts/ harnesses you have. Join us for a very full three days of twill fun.

This workshop is intended for beyond beginner (can warp a loom from written instructions) through advanced weavers. Participants will come with looms pre-warped. A \$25 lab fee per participant will cover a binder for samples, notes and about 45 pages of handouts. The workshop is limited to 20 participants. The drafts for your warp will be provided by Mary.



- ★ The Handweaver's Guild of Boise Valley is hosting this workshop on **June 11, 12 & 13, 2021.** (date change)
- ★ Registration is open to members of the Guild.
- ★ We will be following the Virus Guidelines as outlined in the additional information sheet.
- ★ We will need a minimum of 10 participants by February 15, 2021. If there are more participants, there may be the option of refunding some of the cost, as Guild policy states workshops merely support themselves.
- ★ The workshop will be held at the Bowmont Church Gymnasium, south of Nampa.
- ★ The workshop cost is \$150.00, plus the additional \$25.00 lab fee.
- ★ Participants will come with looms pre-warped, and will provide enough weft for weaving the warp.
- ★ Please return this form and your workshop fees to Mary Chown at P.O.Box 1162, Donnelly, Idaho 83615.
- ★ Cancellation of your participation in the workshop will be managed on an individual basis. Finding another participant to take your place would be the best scenario.

Name: _____

Address: _____ Phone #: _____

Email: _____

Table or Floor Loom (circle one) & # shafts: _____

Covid-19 Safety Measures for the Twill Immersion Workshop

At the time of this writing COVID-19 is surging in our communities and gatherings of more than 10 are prohibited; this may change by the time we hold the workshop. Based on CDC guidelines and Idaho State recommendations, we suggest wearing masks during this workshop. We also recognize individual circumstances and encourage attendees to maintain their health and safety in the way they are most comfortable.

The following safety procedures will be in place:

- Loading into, and out of, the gymnasium needs to be managed to spread participants out. Details on how to manage this will be decided at a later time, but if urgency is required for either scenario, please let the committee know.
- We will provide a box of masks, non-latex gloves, Kleenex, hand sanitizer, and wipes. Feel free to bring your own.
- Frequent hand washing is encouraged.
- We will mark the floor with blue tape where looms are to be set up, 6 feet apart.
- Bring your own lunch, snacks and drinks; signs will be posted for maximum occupancy in the kitchen.
- If possible, please bring shuttles that can be wiped down with disinfectant wipes. If you don't want your shuttles wiped down, please post a sign at your workstation and provide an alternative.
- Most importantly, have fun. This workshop is a rare opportunity, especially in this current environment, to engage and learn from one of the top instructors in the nation. Make the most of it.

Officers and Chairs



- President - Doug Ranck
- Vice President - Anne Oglevie
- Vice President - Mary Chown
- Secretary - Sally Johnston
- Treasurer - Mitzi Meyers
- Membership Officer - Dagmar Rapp
- Librarian: Sally Johnston
- Web Master: Vila Cox
- Newsletter Editor: Rebecca Winter
- Sample Exchange: Julie Gerrard

- Outreach Committee: Janet Stanger & Dyan Lay
- Spinning Study Group: Dagmar Rapp
- Weaving Intensive: Connie Griffin & Rebecca Winter
- Spinning Intensive: Dagmar Rapp & Joan Ranck
- Day Weaving Study Group: Vila Cox
- Garment Study Group: Greta Ankeny
- COE Study Group: Mary Berent
- Bobbin Lace Study Group: Vila Cox
- Rug Punch & All Meeting: Jinks Hunter



Website

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

<https://boiseguild.groups.io/g/main> - Sign into your personal groups.io account.

Special Events:

- June 11, 12 & 13, 2021 - Twill Immersion, by Mary Berent
- October 18, 19 & 20, 2021 - Double Rainbow Workshop, by Jennifer Moore

Meeting Minutes

Meeting Minutes for January 2, 2021

The meeting was called to order at 10:36 by president Doug Ranck.

Members present: president Doug Ranck, co-vice president Mary Chown, Treasurer Mitzi Meyers, secretary Sally Johnston, membership officer Dagmar Rapp, Dyan Lay, Ester Kleinkauf, Julie Gerrard, Rebecca Winter, Mary Berent, Kathy McGowan, and Joan Ranck.

Mitzi reported that she has not yet renewed our subscriptions to *Handwoven* and *Spin Off*. She does not know how many magazines we have missed so she will contact both and determine how much we need to pay.

Doug introduced the first topic for discussion regarding the audio recording of meetings. The meetings are being recorded so that the secretary can listen and make sure the minutes are correct. In an effort to keep information on Groups IO to a minimum, we agreed that the recordings should be deleted after the minutes have been completed. Rebecca and Dagmar will look into by whom and how this can be done. Perhaps Vila will know as she is the owner of the the group.

Next we learned the program for today, Tour de Fleece, had been canceled. The reason for the cancelation was uncertain.

Doug asked about our P.O. box. He has a key and Dagmar said she also has a key. As Dagmar lives closest to the post office, she volunteered to check it one time per week.

Doug also said Melanie is stepping down as our librarian. He asked for volunteers. Sally volunteered to be the lead librarian and 4 members agreed to help out as needed (Rebecca, Jinks, Dagmar and Mitzi). Thank you. Members believe Melanie made a recent list of all materials available. The list will be obtained if possible. If not, Sally will take a new inventory.

Rebecca reported on the directories for this year. She has mailed them out and they should arrive soon. The cost was \$190.33 with postage at \$65.00 and envelopes at \$12.50.

The meeting was adjourned at 10:56.

◆ Respectively submitted by Sally Johnston, Secretary.



~ ❧ ❧ ❧ Members' Work ❧ ❧ ❧ ~

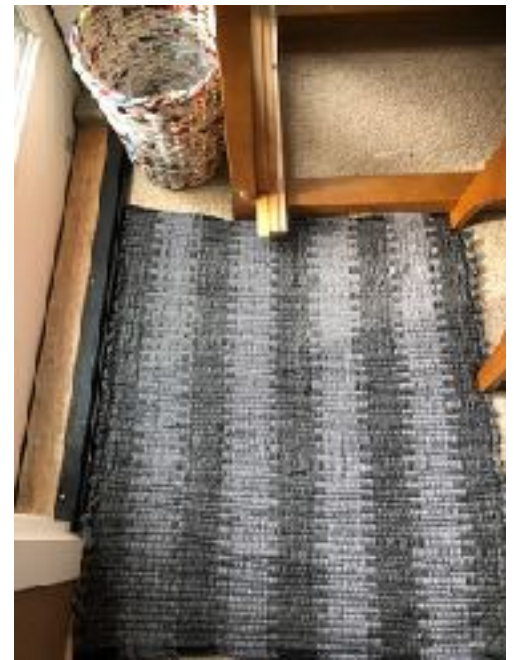
Cindy Schafer

Went from cat cave to cat sombrero after I tried to make it stiffer. drat!



Cynthia Pollock

I was busy before the holidays weaving Harrisville wool blankets for gifts – they fluffed up nicely after washing. I also took apart a rug I braided years ago and am recycling the wool into woven rugs like the gray one in photo. (See next page).



Mitzi Meyers

My personal tour de fleece goal (whoohoo, I got er done!) was to finish over a pound of fiber spinning and plying to match what Lynn had done when she started this project. She dyed the fiber.

And a Grand Challenge hat.



Barbara Redman

Table runner I made for my sister since Christmas.



Julie Gerrard

The Sword Fern & Horsetail Runner that I am weaving for a wedding present. Cynthia Newman designed the runner. The draft is in the March/April, 2020, *Handwoven* magazine, on page 38.



Joan Sheehan

Making a Lindsey hat from Scramble spinning yarn, and a different sort of 'neutral' & having a relaxing time of it!



Georgianna Goetsch

Hope this finds you and yours well and that you have found the time to do all those things you were saving it for! 🍷 to retirement 🍷

I received a treasured Guild Directory. I appreciate all of yours and others attention to details, talents, time, and love, this effort takes!

🍒 Winter Meditation 🙏 in Walnut and Black Cherry KoolAid 🍒



🐫 Aurora Studio Natural Stone Whorl Spindle and Suri Alpaca 🐫



💖 Happy St Valentines Day 💖 Wishing you many acts of Kindnesses



Jinks Hunter

Handspun by Jinks. Hmmm which one to choose?

And test handspun. Hedgehog mitten.



Here's what I made for the Grand Challenge.



Rebecca Winter

Grand Challenge results. There were 69 bobbins emptied for two warps. The first warp resulted in the 4 Star towels, with all the warp and weft taken from shuttle bobbins. The portion of the second warp used for the book cover was also taken entirely from bobbins.

