

Weave to
re-create
the past



Weave to
create for
the future

The Roving

January, 2017

Presidents' Letter

Dear Members,

"Creativity is contagious, pass it on."

Albert Einstein

New Year's greetings, HWOTV!

We are looking forward to an exciting year. There are some changes.... new things to learn.... skills to polish.....infinite possibilities.

HWOTV welcomes Sandra Willey as new Vice-President. She is referring to the Guild Questionnaire when selecting program topics, and it should be a fulfilling year.

Debbie Estandia will be managing the Library so that Sophie is able to concentrate on the Newsletter and a variety of personal projects on the horizon.

Creativity can, at times, seem elusive, but each of us has an idea of what sparks it. For some it might be nature – the ocean, a spectacular sunset, early morning dew on green leaves, or cloud patterns. Music inspires many as do photographs, museum exhibits, quilt designs, textiles, ethnic clothing.....

Inspiration can come upon us unexpectedly as we weave, spin, knit, felt, dye, sip tea, and quietly think.



January Meeting

When: January 14, 2017

Where: Exeter Memorial Building

Time: 10:00 AM (Board Meeting 9:00AM)

Members with last names beginning with **A-D**, please bring munchies & goodies

January Meeting Program: See President's Letter for info.

Let us try this year to share some of the spirit of creativity that is within us all. January starts the year off with a Board meeting at 9:00 prior to the regular meeting. January's program will be Toni and "Knotless Netting." Details will follow. May Creativity be with you!
Leonora and Toni

Program details from Toni Best:

Toni Best will be leading a program on Knotless Netting. This will be a "Hands On" project in which everyone will be able to create netting around a medicine bottle. All materials will be provided, but if someone wants to bring their own waxed linen or carpet warp thread, they are welcome to do so. Everyone is only limited by their imagination, so it should be a fun time."

Here's an interesting article from Dee Dee King:

A fun gathering for weavers is the celebration of Roc Day. This is how Wikipedia defines it:

Distaff Day, also called Roc Day, is always the 7th of January, the day after the feast of the Epiphany. It is also known as Saint Distaff Day, one of the many unofficial holidays in Catholic Nations.

Many St. Distaff's Day gatherings are held, large and small, throughout local the fiber community. The distaff, or rock, used in spinning was the medieval symbol of women's work.

In many European cultural traditions, women resumed their household work after the twelve days of Christmas. Women of all classes would spend their evenings spinning on the wheel. During the day, they would carry a drop spindle with them. Spinning was the only means of turning raw wool, cotton, or flax into thread, which could then be woven into cloth.

Men have their own way of celebrating this occasion: this is done through Plough Monday. It is the first Monday after Epiphany where men are supposed to get back to work.

Every few years, Distaff Day and Plough Monday falls on the same day. Often the men and women would play pranks on each other during this celebration, as was written by Robert Herrick in his poem "Saint Distaff day, or the Morrow after Twelfth Day", which appears in his *Hesperides*.

Some modern craft groups have taken up the celebration of Distaff day as part of their New Year celebration.

How are you going to celebrate Roc Day?

Dee Dee King



The following is a good explanation of yarn weights by Madelyn van der Hoogt, as recently published in *Weaving Today*. She has graciously given permission to your editor to re-produce it here:

Please scroll down:

Hello Madelyn,

I've been weaving a long time, and I think I learned way back in the 1980s that weaving yarn uses the count 5/2 to mean five twists to the inch with two single yarns plied together. Well, I was about to write a blog post about weaving yarns, but I see that some yarns are described as 2/14, 4/14, 4/10, and they don't look like they have that many single yarns plied together. I can't find any explanation for the counts. Am I just using a term from the olden days?

Thank you!

Lucy

Hi Lucy!

Yarn counts cause great confusion even when they are used consistently—and in the case of weaving yarns, they are not. The source that explains this best (and I consult it often) is [*The Weaver's Companion*](#) (pages 30–31).

Here goes a summary:

In the first place, one of the numbers (the 10 in a 10/2 cotton, for example) is based on the number of yards in a pound of a single strand (of arbitrary thickness) and that number is considered a 1. For cotton (and silk), there are 840 yd/lb in a Number 1 strand. So a Number 10 strand would have 8,400 yd/lb. The other number given for a yarn (the 2 in a 10/2, for example) is the number of strands or "plies" (i.e., how many Number 10 strands) there are in the yarn. If the the yarn contains two strands each equal to 8,400 yd/lb, there will be half as many yd/lb (i.e., half as many 10/2 strands per pound as 10/1 strands). Therefore, there are 4,200 yd/lb in 10/2 cotton (8,400 yd/lb in 10/1 cotton, 2,100 yd per pound in 10/4 cotton, etc.). With 5/2 cotton as an example: five times 840 is 4,200 yd/lb for a single strand and therefore 2,100 yd/lb for the two strands in 5/2. While silk uses the same count system as cotton (840), silk yarn for weaving is usually loftier than cotton, so that although 20/2 silk is the same weight as 20/2 cotton, the yarn appears almost as thick as a 10/2. (This definitely varies and is a result of the degree of twist.)

An additional source of confusion occurs because the arbitrary number 840 yd/lb for cotton and silk is not the same as the arbitrary number selected for a Number 1 strand in other yarns (300 yd/lb for linen, 256 for woolen-spun wools, 560 for worsted-spun wools, for example). This is why 22/2 cottolin (whose number is based on the linen count) is about the same size as 8/2 cotton (3,170 yd/lb for cottolin, 3,360 yd/lb for 8/2 cotton). To add to this confusion, while some manufacturers use a linen count for cottolin, others use a cotton count.

And, to add even one more element of confusion: different yarn manufacturers list the numbers in a different order: 2/8 instead of 8/2, for example. At *Handwoven*, we've tried to consistently give the weight number first, the ply number second.

In the end, once you know that the higher the top number the finer the yarn and also that you can compare the top numbers when the yarn is in the same fiber, you really don't need to know all the information in the summary above. You know that 5/2 cotton is twice as thick as 10/2 cotton and 20/2 cotton is twice as fine; 8/2 wool is a lot thicker than 20/2 wool. Whenever I have any questions about yarns and how they should be sett or their

relative thickness, I consult the *Master Yarn Chart*.

Madelyn



Birthdays for January: – if we've missed you, please let us know.

Margaret Alfonso

Toni Best

Kim Bethel

Karen Branch

Vanessa Damron

Arlene Dodge

Terri Judd

Judy Trimble

Sandra Willey

Gail Wright

This is your month, Ladies; have a wonderful Birthday!

Squeekie Wheels: The latest news from our leader, Ann Belau:

Good news!! History is repeating itself and we can still have our spin-in in Exeter on the third Friday of the month.

Most everybody wanted to remain in Exeter, so the hunt continued. We are going back to the East Meets West Restaurant. When the weather is nice, we can spin on the patio and when it is cold, we can move inside to the back dining room. I have committed to at least three months to see how it works for everyone.

We started Friday, Nov. 18 and had a good turn-out. The weather was great and the lunch even better! I don't know about you, but I have missed our spin-ins, the friendships, and all the sharing we do. As it was with Cappella's, there isn't a charge for the location as long as we eat our lunch there.

So there you have it. I hope you will dust off your spinning wheels and come join the fun. Park on the street behind the restaurant, or at the north end of the parking lot.....we don't want ruin our welcome by taking the parking spaces of their regular daily customers.

Change in Schedule for January:

Due to a variety of conflicts, the January Spin-In has been cancelled. That doesn't let you off the hook though, so keep spinning lovely things to show us all at the February Spin-In. Hope to see you all at the Guild meeting.

Kaweah Konnection: Next meeting will be January 11, 2017. We meet on the 2nd Wednesday of the month at the Presbyterian Church Conference Room in Three Rivers. Contact Sharon Warren if you're interested. Instructional weaving/spinning DVD's are occasionally featured and "Show and Tell" is always interesting.

Guild Dues: \$25.00 per year for individuals; \$35 per year for families. Dues are payable January 1st and are in effect through December 31st of the same year. Membership cards will be issued to Guild members upon renewal.



Loom for Sale:

45" weaving width 4 Harness 6T Herald Floor Loom plus Herald Loom Bench. Has all new inserted eye heddles (old steel ones saved, too!) I'm trying to make more room and find this great loom is not being used as much as it should be. \$500 OBO. Let me know if you're interested and I will furnish pics.

561-4265; Sophie Britten or sophieab@sbcglobal.net

Items for the newsletter (items for sale, new items, announcements, etc.) need to be received by Sophie Britten by the 25th of each month.



That's all, folks!