

Weave to
re-create
the past



Weave to
create for
the future

The Roving

November, 2022

November, 2022 Greetings, HWOTV!

Dear Guild Members,

Sale and Show was a success!! From what I have heard, the vendors were happy and customers seemed to take the new format in stride. I think our customers really enjoyed the opportunity to talk to the Artists as they were purchasing their product.

Rumor has it that the Guild made money on the sale. Also, set up and take down went a lot faster, with each vendor and demonstrator in charge of their own display. I am excited for next year!

Lindsay Dion
HWOTV Co-president



Guild Meeting:

**Date: Nov. 12,
2022**

TIME: 10:00 AM

**Place: Exeter
Memorial Building**

And now.....



**News from
Our Vice-President and Program Chairman, Monica!**

[Editor's Note:]

Our VP is currently out of town so this is posted from last month's Roving.

November

Stay tuned!

December

Action packed December brings 2022 to a close. We will share our results on the challenges (DeeDee: Recycle Reuse, Renew something in your fiber work, whether it is weaving, spinning, felting or Hope's challenge: learn or try to spin linen). We will also gather the traditional gifts for those who are less fortunate. While this sharing your talents and handmade items with others is a recent tradition, it is also an optional part of this month's program.

We will also gather to celebrate with each other. More information on that celebration will be coming in November.

January

During 2022, I was struck by the number of times different people in my earshot, commented on not being able to start, let alone complete a fiber job- a job we all love. So, during January's meeting, you will be making a Vision Board and inadvertently sharing dreams and hopes with your fellow guild members. Here are 4 articles for you to read, if you are curious. There are many others (Pinterest, too) for your reference. Read, think, plan! It may include other parts of your life or focus on your fiber tasks.

https://www.huffpost.com/entry/the-scientific-reason-why_b_6392274

<https://www.themotivationclinic.co.uk/blog/blog-post-title-three-grwe9>

<https://www.psychologytoday.com/us/blog/click-here-happiness/202103/what-is-vision-board-and-why-make-one>

<https://www.oprahdaily.com/life/a29959841/how-to-make-a-vision-board/>

January con't

In January, the guild will provide poster board, markers, glue sticks, scissors, colored paper, and other supplies to help you create your own personal board. You may certainly bring your own supplies, magazine pictures, and do-dads!



Below you will find helpful and thoughtful items to ponder: [from Monica last month]

WHAT MAKES A GOOD GUILD?

Eleanor V. Ashwell

Weavers are a most important part of weaving. Their constant help and friendship tip the balance toward weaving. So it is normal evolution that they congregate for a sharing of information in a social atmosphere on a scheduled basis.

The size of a weavers' guild has its own unique advantages and limitations. A large guild can offer more expensive programs, a regular newsletter, a larger library and a wider distribution of responsibilities. And a large guild is located where museums and other cultural centers are available. But it has the disadvantage of losing the personal relationship of knowing each and all members.

A small guild relies on its own members to furnish programs. This results in a nice nudge to learning and presenting assigned lessons. Dues support membership books, a library and the niceties of an organization. Everyone knows everyone else and nearly everyone has a guild responsibility.

A tiny guild is usually in an isolated area and must really work to keep alive. There is no lag in member-participation in a small guild. Study programs make up ninety percent of the meetings; the other ten is devoted to planning for community projects such as fairs, festivals and invitational exhibits. Such a guild's prayer is for more weaver participants.

I have been a member of guilds in several sizes, from being president of the largest, the Southern California Handweavers' Guild in Los Angeles, to sharing Peninsula Weavers in Port Townsend, Washington with five other weavers, and have enjoyed them all. Could there be a smaller working group than six?

In any guild a dwindling attendance is a danger signal. Perhaps the programming does not include "something for everyone", as well as some things of general interest? Possibly each and every member isn't doing enough in the organizational part of the guild? Personal involvement helps retain a feeling of responsibility in any organization.

Enthusiastic participation is contagious. And an affirmative approach to discussions and activities makes for the enjoyment of all in attendance. How can a guild further

these? In my opinion it can promote and stimulate interest in weaving through programs, exhibits, study plans, workshops and field trips whenever available and feasible. It can encourage weavers to make more use of the results of their creativity — by wearing their lovely yardages, carrying their stunning accessories, and using handwoven household articles consistently. How wonderful that they can weave their own practical luxuries!

It should widen the knowledge and experience of members by having annual exhibits of their work, as well as having a Show-and-Tell of weaving, or things pertaining to weaving, at each meeting. Exhibits present the best possible opportunity to compare craftsmanship and design of each article in relation to its intended use; Show-and-Tell allows for a relaxed exchange of information and discussion of the articles being shown.

It might raise the quality of weaving by making a standards program available to those interested in participating, with help and direction arranged by qualified weavers. This, then, could hardly be offered by a very small group. However, guilds already using a degree program are always happy to share the results of their research.

These are but a few observations and suggestions in the interest of our beloved ancient and modern craft and its future well-being. Comments are solicited and appreciated.

* * *

"One's first instructor sets the tone for future weaving," Eleanor Ashwell affirms. "Her own enthusiasm and love for the craft encourages learning, craftsmanship, participation, and sharing in all its phases. My first teacher, Harriet Lynn, not only instructed in the classroom, but helped me into the wonders of a guild (Potomac Craftsmen), through the fright of first exhibits, and into the stimulation of a study group.

"At present I do some weaving, some teaching, some exhibiting — these three with encouraging results — and, hopefully, some helping as a member of the Educational Institutions committee of the HGA."

Guild Life Crisis

by Iris Dozer

INTRODUCTION

In the spring of 1984, the nominating committee of the Arizona Desert Weavers and Spinners Guild was unable to complete a slate of officers for the next year. Of particular importance, no one seemed willing to assume the responsibilities of the presidency. There was no precedent for solving this type of problem, and we were at a loss. In the past several people had served more than one term as president, yet each year it had seemed a bit more difficult to find members willing to head committees or special-interest groups. Ironically, we had just finished a marvelous year of meetings and activities led by Peggy Nesbitt, focusing on the theme of "Past to Present", starting with a 35th anniversary celebration. But now, "Future" seemed doubtful. Without officers, could a guild survive? Why were we facing this crisis?

BACKGROUND

Let me share with you some thoughts and background to our problem as well as the early results of our solution. Writing and talking to weavers and members of other organizations made me realize we were not alone: the search for "leadership" in volunteer groups is a common problem. Maybe life in the fast lane has caught up with us, or other priorities are limiting our free time. Perhaps we demand too much from our volunteers. Certainly, we tend to depend on the same people time and again. Sound familiar?

The ADWSG has probably experienced most of the problems that trouble guilds. Over the 35 years of its existence, membership has fluctuated in size and sophistication. In our early years, members were content to meet in homes and exchange weaving information. Increases in membership resulted in a move to public meeting areas. Programs were developed. A small group of spinners still met in homes but were incorporated into

the ADWSG as a special-interest group. Community activities were supported, and demonstrations for The State Fair and schools became guild responsibilities. As times changed through the 50's, 60's, and 70's, several major ideological splits in membership changed our character and directions.

ANALYSIS

Directions need to be defined by the community of people who support an organization. Modern guilds don't relate to images of earlier times when economic factors, standards and protective measures were most important to the survival of the craftsman-worker. Communication is probably one of the most important functions of most guilds of the 80's.

Through the years the ADWSG had become an increasingly complex organization with a large, multi-function board. We seemed top heavy, expending much time on "guild business". Our monthly meetings drew only 30-50% of our 100-plus membership; at least half of those were board members or committee heads. Our leadership came from a small group, and we had worn them out. New members seemed reluctant to participate at the organizational level and weren't sure of their place in already-established interest groups. Maybe concerted good leadership had inadvertently scared off new blood? In any event, we did not have enough volunteers to operate the guild in its present form.

SOLUTION

What to do? Perhaps I identified frustration with the multiplying complexities of my own life with the guild's problems. Anyhow, simplification (minimal approach) appealed to me as a way of controlling the situation until we could see what was really happening. Our organizational status was so complicated, even dissolution of the guild seemed impossible. My proposal to the board suggested we reduce our elected officers and board members to a minimum; stimulate new interest groups and rely on our established interest groups for workshops, activities, and programs; maintain communication with

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our newsletter, "The Mother-Of-All"; and, retain our corporate structure under flexible and minimum by-laws.

If the board would accept my proposals, Shirley Mill-sap agreed to serve as president once more. The thrust of reorganization would be to develop a format within which we could function with a minimum of structure while being open to input from the membership. Our charter goals of promoting weaving and spinning were kept intact. Nothing was out of reach. Board meetings were to be kept to a minimum, with three elected officers plus representatives from the interest groups. The only mandated programs for 1984-85 would come from our interest groups: Spinning, Diversified, and Tapestry. Meetings could be simple show-and-tell or organized with a speaker or show. Additional programs could be proposed and carried out by any member with board approval. Workshops needed a sponsor and board support. With fewer meetings we did need to maintain our newsletter.

RESULTS

Did it work? The board accepted the main body of the recommendations and reaffirmed the desire to maintain minimum organization and maximum participation. By the time you read this article, two years will have passed and the ADWSG is still a viable organization. Our attitude the first year was just to hold on and see if time would solve our problems.

Our first year after reorganization proved very active! With only four regular meetings scheduled, there was much activity stimulated in the interest groups. Two rag workshops were spontaneously organized during the summer. A spinners' workshop had a waiting list almost before it was announced, and several mini-workshops were well attended. With each of these activities, a different person had accepted the responsibility. Both beginning and intermediate weaving groups were begun, and this year we have Diversified Weavers, Intermediate Weavers and the Mary Black Study Group. Somewhere along the line we also picked up a Knitting Study Group. Several new members helped start a Beginning Spinners' Group; in response to the need for an evening section, a

Spindle Spinners' Group was organized. In each case, some one individual accepted the total responsibility for leading a group. All of these meetings are open to the general membership, so if a member really want lots of action, it's available. Not all groups are large, and possibly some of them will be short-lived. Perhaps other interest groups will take their place. We are having more meetings this year with a three-year member, Cynthia Woods, as president, and much new leadership in our interest groups.

These statistics don't adequately reflect the enthusiasm and excitement I see within our guild. Each new group seems to be developing a spirit of sharing and camaraderie—an intangible the older members had already developed through the years. There does seem to be less organization and more participation with all members. We are operating at a real grassroots level with a wonderful influx of new faces. Intimidation is a strong word, but perhaps the traditions and reputations of experienced weavers and spinners did present an obstacle to learners and even to more advanced new members. Even though long term members have prided themselves on being a "giving" group of people, the newer members obviously enjoy a learning environment at their level.

Individual members have developed ideas for workshops, demonstrations, even a fashion show, and have followed through within the structure of the guild. The responsibilities are spread over a larger number of people, and we are participating because of interest, not because the organization needs support.

A guild supplies the communication and support system that stimulates us all to try new ideas, perfect old techniques and embody its stated goals. With more flexibility in our organization, we hope the ADWSG will be able to focus on the activities the whole membership is able to support. Simplification of our structure seems to be working. Now time will tell. □

A sheep raiser, flax grower, and enthusiastic woolcomber, Iris Dozer makes her home in Phoenix, Arizona. Iris is an experimenter and analyzer from way back, and tackles new challenges in fibers and production methods with energy and insight.

Wool Rovings

- * Buttersoft Shetland in browns and greys
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- * Cotton sliver soft, easy to spin

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**From DeeDee King:**

**2022 Show And Sale Is In The Books!**

In case you missed it, the 2022 Show and Sale has taken place. It was a fabulous day. The artists who had booths sold lots of their lovely work, the public who came in declared that they liked the new format, and old friends came to visit. What could be better? There were a few things that still can be improved on, but we can honestly say that our first Show and Sale in three years was a success. The guild may have even made money.

Thank you to all who came and helped out before, during and after the show. I really appreciated everyone's positive and cheerful attitude. It was very much a team effort that got the job done and made a stress-free day for me. I will be contacting our artists in the next few days to find out what sold for them, so we have an idea of what's trending and what our customers want. That is very valuable information for future shows. The Memorial Building staff have "penciled in" the fourth Saturday in October 2023 for next years' show.

Sincerely,

Dee Dee King

Chairman

Show and Sale Committee

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Kaweah Konnection: Kaweah Konnection meetings are held the second Wednesday of each month at the Three Rivers Community Presbyterian Church. Please contact Linda Hayden for further info.

Squeekie Wheels: **Squeekie's next meeting has been set for November 18!** Remember that we are meeting at the Exeter Library. From 10-12 AM, the third Friday of each month! It will be so great to get together again. Remember to bring your show and tell items so we can all see what you've been spinning! See you in November!

**Exeter Public Library
230 E. Chestnut Street,
Exeter; 10am ~ 12:00 pm.**



Sorry – no items this month!



SEE YOU NEXT MONTH!

