

THE

MOTHER OF ALL

Newsletter of the Arizona Desert Weavers & Spinners Guild, Inc.

MARCH 2026

Volume 54, Issue 6

From the President Desk
Merlyn Heck

adwsg.president@gmail.com

Greetings, fiber art friends!

I've been hearing from a lot of our Guild members lately about how much they've enjoyed our Fiber Journey experiences this year. I'm right there with you! It's been wonderful to see all the talent our Guild has to offer. One of my favorite things about being part of this Guild is how eager everyone is to share what they do- it makes it easy to appreciate and sample all kinds of fun art forms I might never have known existed otherwise! And not just the art forms themselves, but the variations and extents they can be taken to. It seems like every meeting, I'm learning about a new type of loom or seeing some new basket shape, or admiring a beautiful rug someone poured hours of their life into (Also every meeting, I have to remind myself that I don't have the time to start yet another hobby, in fact it would take several lifetimes to do all of the things I would like to do). The world of fiber arts is vast, and I love getting to explore it with all of you!

If you're thinking about expanding your own fiber arts horizons, the deadline for the Guild Education Grant is coming up. The winner will receive \$250 to put towards some kind of fiber-related project; it can be used for a class or a workshop, tools or materials, or whatever else you may need to try something out. Whatever you'd like to do, we'll be thrilled to hear about it during a meeting next year. Find the application at this link, fill it out, and return it via email or in-person at the March meeting: <https://adwsg.org/guild-forms>

I'm looking forward to seeing you all at our next meeting, for the conclusion of our Fiber Journey series!

See you at the meeting! *Merlyn, President*

MARCH 7, 2026 Presentation

Fiber Journey Continues

Our Fiber Journey continues for the March program. The following fiber arts will be covered!

**Crochet
Knitting
Lace and Tatting
Kumihimo
Miser Bags
Quilting
Sewing**



Listen to your fellow members as they present their fiber arts skills!!



WORKSHOPS

Roberta Perpich

adwsg.workshops@gmail.com

Upcoming workshops that are scheduled and will be here before you know it. The first workshop will be held on March 21st and 22nd. The title of the workshop is, Bag it, Sewing with Your Handwoven Fabric. This will be taught by Beki Welsh, who has over 50 years of experience weaving and even more years sewing. Participants will learn to cut their handwoven fabric, stabilize the edges, insert a zipper and create professional finished seams while constructing two different style bags. This is a great workshop to get over the fear of cutting your fabric and the techniques learned are all applicable to the next step of sewing garments from your handwoven fabrics. Also, we must share that making bags is addictive, it's a great way to use up extra pieces of woven fabric and the bags make great gifts. We hope you can join this workshop.

The second workshop will be April 25th and is titled An Introduction to Rigid Heddle Weaving, This workshop will be taught by Roxanne Eklund and participants will learn the basic of working on a rigid heddle loom such as dressing the loom, hem stitching, including the sumac stitch maintaining tension, and learn several different techniques for creating patterns with your fiber. This will be a great opportunity to give weaving a try and expand your fiber skills. It goes without saying that leaning to weave leads us on all types of adventures, so come join in the fun!

If you have not yet signed up, please contact me to see if there is still space for you to attend either workshop. I can be reached at ADWSG.workshops@gmail.com

Website

Anna Akridge

adwsg.webmaster@gmail.com

Suggestion Box Open!

Over the summer, I am planning on sprucing up the Guild website a little and I could use everyone's help. Is there something you'd love to see on the website? Something that is already there that you find confusing?

Do you reference our website often, or rarely? Please send any feedback/suggestions/requests to rarely? Please send any feedback/suggestions/requests to adwsg.webmaster@gmail.com so that I can incorporate these ideas into my research plan and workflow.

WAYS & MEANS

Riley McInnis & Colette Hogue

adwsg.waysandmeans@gmail.com

Hello to our lovely guild!

We, Colette and Riley both, will be stepping down from our roles as Ways and Means co-chairs after this summer, which means we'll need to appoint new co-chairs beginning in October. Velvet has already volunteered, but we feel confident that this role truly requires at least two people to be sustainable. Riley will remain involved over the summer to provide continuity and help train the new co-chairs. While we hope to continue attending guild meetings, we're just no longer able to commit the additional time required for the Ways and Means co-chair responsibilities. If you're considering being on the committee, we've listed such responsibilities for you to review:

The Ways and Means committee is responsible for the storage unit, organizing materials for raffles at Guild meetings, and coordinating communication and donations to the Guild as they are sent to the Ways and Means email address or gifted in person. This committee also coordinates the rental of Guild equipment.

The primary responsibilities for this position take place on the days our guild meets in person. For example, we arrive at the storage unit at approximately 8:30am, pull from the donations (not rental equipment) for the raffle, load the sound equipment, and arrive at the Northtown Community Center at 9am.

Once there:

1. Bring in the raffle items and organize them on the raffle table.
2. Set up raffle cups (kept in the library cabinet) and coordinate the sale of raffle tickets.
3. Collect and record proceeds from the raffle and give them to the Treasurer (with documentation)

After the meeting:

1. Return materials to the library.
2. Return donation and excess materials to the Guild storage unit.
3. (optional) Sometimes we'll take the time to set aside the next month's raffle materials if we have time. This makes the next month a little easier and smoother in the morning.

Communication via email does occur year-round. It is common for individuals outside the Guild community to have materials to donate to the Guild on behalf of a family member who is no longer active in textiles. These types of pickups (or helpful hints on how they can sell or donate their holdings) occurred a handful of times over the last Summer as well.

Serving on the Ways and Means Committee has been genuinely rewarding. It's a wonderful opportunity to connect with members and to play a meaningful role in supporting the guild's financial health. It's work that feels both impactful and fulfilling. 😊

WAYS & MEANS

Riley McInnis & Colette Hogue

adwsg.waysandmeans@gmail.com

If you're interested in getting involved once we've stepped down (or even earlier, so we can help you learn the ropes), please don't hesitate to reach out. Our goal is to transition out in a way that continues to serve the Guild well, while also allowing us to attend to our own personal needs.

Thank you so much for your understanding and support. We truly appreciate this community and look forward to hearing from you.

Now, for a few general reminders that we have in each MOA:

- We will continue to have a raffle each meeting! Tickets will be \$1 each or 6 for \$5.
- We're always accepting donations! Be it fiber for the guild or other art/crafting materials for Riley to take to the Art Resource Center.
- Fiber stored with mothballs cannot be accepted for donation.
- The rental fee for equipment is \$20/month. The current list for equipment available for rental or sale can be found on our website: <https://adwsg.org/rentals-and-sales>

Sincerely,

Ways and Means co-chairs, Colette and Riley

Reach us at adwsg.waysandmeans@gmail.com

Membership

Trish Boone

adwsg.membership@gmail.com

Welcome to our new members, Shauneen Giudice, Danielle Starr, Elizabeth Warne, Larry Nestler, Kathleen, Brett, and Kaylee Bateman, Brandy Boley, Tom Fish, Georgia Press and Emily Williams. We keep growing! We currently have 119 members.

Stop by the Welcome table at the next meeting and say hi and pick up your name tag. You can return it to the file box after the meeting for next time or take it with you. If your name tag goes missing, please let me know so a new one can be printed.

Demonstrations

Jody Dozer

adwsg.demonstrations@gmail.com

April is Maricopa County fair time. We need demonstrators for Friday April 3rd and Saturday April 11th. Both days are from 11:00 am to 4:00 pm in the Home Arts area.

If interested, please let Jody know. - Thank You

FEDERATION

Helene Hall

adwsg.federation@gmail.com

AZ FIBER ARTS FESTIVAL

April 10-12, 2026

Registration is open for everyone until March 1.

After March 1, a late fee will be assessed.

Check out

<https://azfed.org/arizona-fiber-festival/>

We are still accepting items for the raffle basket, please bring items to Ways and Means at the March meeting so that they have time to put the basket together.

Volunteers are needed to tend the guild booth: There are still spots open for every time frame.

However, help is most needed:

>set up on Friday April 10 anytime from 8-3:30. Items will be there ready to display.

>Saturday April 11 from 9-11 and 3-5

>Sunday April 12 from 11-1 and after 3 to tear down

Please let me know if you are available for any or parts of those times.

Thank you in Advance!

Check out Sign up Genius on website above to volunteer for Festival activities.

In other news:

The Federation has started looking into traveling teacher options including in-person classes and online opportunities. If you have suggestions for teachers or topics, please let me know.

FEDERATION
Helene Hall
adwsg.federation@gmail.com

If you are planning to take a class and would like some funding, check out AZFED.ORG, resources tab. Applications are due September 1.

FESTIVAL-CLASS-BROCHURE

Festival Sponsors –



THE
Handweaving
Academy



HOSPITALITY

Julie Cattaneo

adwsg.hospitality@gmail.com

Remember to label any treats donated with the major ingredients, i.e. flour, eggs, nuts, & dairy products, for those guild members that have allergies. Thank you in advance.

LIBRARY

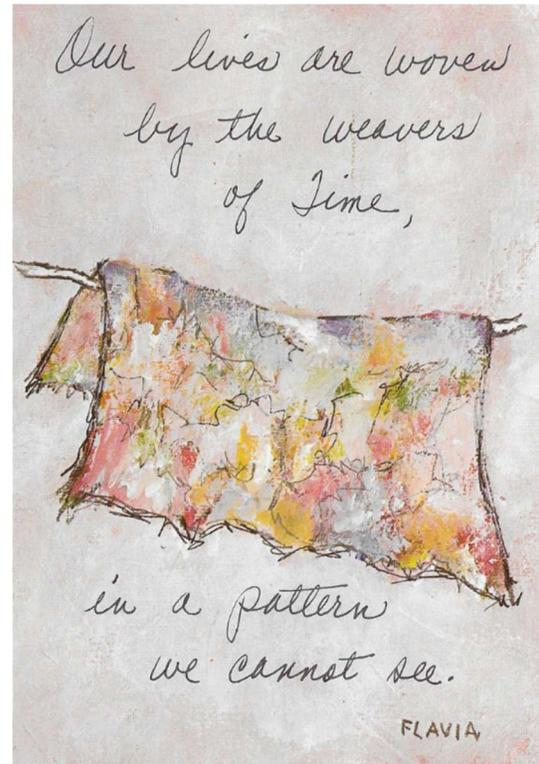
Beki Welsch

adwsg.librarian@gmail.com

This month I added *A New Spin on Color* by Alana Wilcox to the Guild library. Here is how Alana's website describes it:

Have you ever purchased a gorgeous dyed braid, went home and immediately started spinning it only to be disappointed with the color outcomes in your handspun yarns or finished projects?

This book clearly and artfully walks you through understanding color theory making it less intimidating for both novice and expert spinners alike. Never before has a book presented the same dyed top worked up into 20+ different approaches accompanied by easy to follow directions. You will be able to see how the techniques look in both a skein and a knitted swatch. Plus there are photos of finished products accompanying the techniques to make envisioning the spinning applications even easier.



OFFICERS FOR 2025-2026

President	Merlyn Heck	adwsg.president@gmail.com
Vice President Programs	Vacant	adwsg.programs@gmail.com
Vice President Workshops	Roberta Perpich	adwsg.workshops@gmail.com
Treasurer	Sue Carneal	adwsg.treasurer@gmail.com
Secretary	Velvet Dishon	adwsg.secretary@gmail.com

COMMITTEE CHAIRS FOR 2025-2026

Demonstrations/Publicity	Jody Dozer	adwsg.demonstrations@gmail.com
Federation Representative	Helene Hall	adwsg.federation@gmail.com
Historian	Jamie Krauss	adwsg.historian@gmail.com
Hospitality	Julie Cattaneo	adwsg.hospitality@gmail.com
Interest Groups		
Spinning/Fiber Group	Paula Rudnick	adwsg.fibergroup@gmail.com
Wonderful Weavers	Ann Ormiston	adwsg.weavinggroup@gmail.com
In Person Spinning Group	Sue Garber	adwsg.programs@gmail.com
Librarian	Beki Welsch	adwsg.librarian@gmail.com
Membership	Trish Boone	adwsg.membership@gmail.com
Newsletter Editor	Ann Ormiston	adwsg.editor@gmail.com
Ways & Means		adwsg.waysandmeans@gmail.com
Web Site	Anna Akridge	adwsg.webmaster@gmail.com

Next Meeting:
MARCH 7TH will be in person and on Zoom

At
Northtown Community Center
Meeting starts at 10 am

**MOA Submission
Deadline**
The 15th of each month
September through May
adwsg.editor@gmail.com

INTEREST GROUPS

SPINNING/FIBER GROUP ZOOM MEETINGS

Meets the third Wednesday of the month (all year long). FOR THE PRESENT TIME WE ARE MEETING ON ZOOM-(please be sure you are on the group email list so you get the email invite) We love to chat, learn what events are happening online, see what everyone is working on, and exchange ideas and get help with questions or problems we might be having with our projects. Our Zoom starts at 9:30--so join us and start chatting. We love to talk and work while we are still at home so join us for the talk and fun. We also try to have field trips a few time a year.

The group chair is **Paula Rudnick** - adwsg.fibergroup@gmail.com

WONDERFUL WEAVERS STUDY GROUP

Currently Meeting as a ZOOM Group - Meets the Third Sunday of each month, all year long. Currently we are meeting from 1:30 pm to 3:30 pm as a Zoom Group. We discuss Hand Weaving structures, ideas, problems, and solutions and enjoy our show and tell. Come and join our group. The group chair is **Ann Ormiston** adwsg.weavinggroup@gmail.com

THE DROP IN SPINNERS GROUP

The Drop In Spinners meet at the North Town Center 2202 E Waltann Ln, Phoenix on the 3rd Thursday of each month from 10:00 to 2:00 pm. If you want an email reminder, contact me and I will add you to the email list. We always leave having fulfilled our laughter quota!! Join us.

From the front door, proceed to the library in the far back left corner. Anyone with an interest in spinning may join in, even if you are currently working on something else. The group chair is Sue Garber adwsg.programs@gmail.com

ADWSG WEBSITE

<http://www.adwsg.org>

Follow us on

[FACEBOOK](#)

Join Us for Our Monthly Meetings:

10 am In Person

Northtown Community Center 2202 E.
Waltann Lane,

Phoenix, AZ

Doors Open at 9 am

Come Early and Mingle!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

MARCH 7, 2026

April 4, 2026

May 2, 2026

BRING YOUR OWN CUP

Thank you for bringing your reusable cups,
mugs, and utensils to the meetings.

Let us take care of Our Earth

CALENDAR

September 2025 – September 2026 – Phoenix Art Museum - Flowers of the Punjab

April 10, 11 & 12, 2026 - AZ FIBER ARTS FESTIVAL, CAMP VERDE AZ



June 12-14, 2026 – Complex Weavers Seminars 2026, Westminster, CO

August 11-17, 2026 – HGA Convergence Fiber Arts Conference, New Orleans, LA

July 6-10, 2027 - Intermountain Weavers Conference (IWC), Colorado Springs, CO

CLASSIFIED

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Did you know - Classified Ads are free to current ADWSG Members - Just send your ad to adwsg.editor@gmail.com and it will be included in the next MOA