

THE

# MOTHER OF ALL

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

NOVEMBER 2024

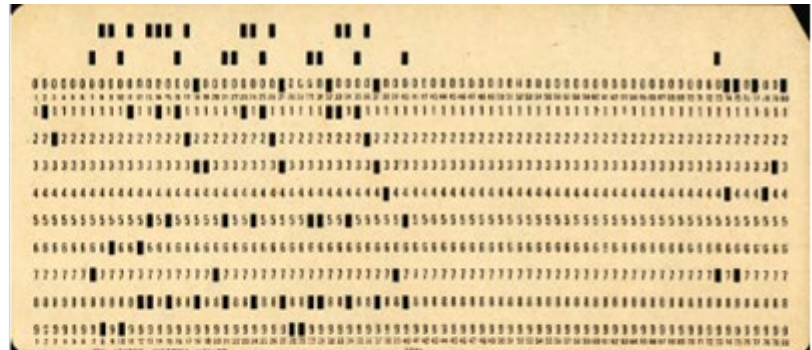
Volume 53, Issue 2

## *From the President Desk* **Merlyn Heck**

[adwsg.president@gmail.com](mailto:adwsg.president@gmail.com)

Dear Guild Members,

What a fantastic start to the guild year we've had! It was wonderful to see all the new and familiar faces at the October meeting, and to start diving in on new projects. I'm particularly excited to start weaving with Beki's beginners' study group, and to participate in Anna's "Crafting a Creative Memoir" writing activity! The writing prompt for this month happens to be Origin Stories and Legacies. Coincidentally, I watched the launch of NASA's Clipper spacecraft this week, the start of its 6-year journey to Jupiter's icy moon Europa. What does this have to do with origins, or fiber arts for that matter? It turns out, the computers we use to fly rockets to other planets originated with the invention of the Jacquard loom in 1804!



Left: A Jacquard loom's chain of punched cards.

Above: An IBM punched card used to input data and programs to a computer.

***From the President Desk***  
**Merlyn Heck**

[adwsg.president@gmail.com](mailto:adwsg.president@gmail.com)

Jacquard looms produce intricate woven patterns quickly using a series of punch cards. Card makers would translate a pattern design onto the cards row-by-row, and the series of holes in the cards would control the raising and lowering of the warp threads on the loom. In this way, a pattern could be “programmed” onto the loom and reproduced perfectly with every weaving. This punch card weaving directly inspired the punch card computing that put humans on the moon for the first time!

Weavers were also fundamental in building the Apollo program computers themselves. The memory cores of these computers were made of copper wires threaded through and around tiny magnetic donuts, with the pattern representing the ones and zeros of the binary computer language. Factories relied on the weaving skills of women who worked in textile mills, as well as Navajo weavers, to create the brains of the computers needed to guide the Apollo lander safely to the moon’s surface.

That’s quite a legacy for fiber artists!

Merlyn, *President*

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For more information about weaving in the Space Age, check out these articles:  
<https://www.scienceandindustrymuseum.org.uk/objects-and-stories/jacquard-loom>

<https://www.sciencenews.org/article/core-memory-weavers-navajo-apollo-raytheon-computer-nasa>

<https://www.smithsonianmag.com/smithsonian-institution/margaret-hamilton-led-nasa-software-team-landed-astronauts-moon-180971575/>

***HAPPY THANKSGIVING***



## **NOVEMBER 2ND**

***Presented by***

**RUTH HALLOWS**

***Chilkat Weaving: A Traditional Form of Weaving Practiced by  
Northcoast Peoples of Alaska***

### **WAYS & MEANS**

Lauren Goldfish

[adwsg.waysandmeans@gmail.com](mailto:adwsg.waysandmeans@gmail.com)

Thank you for buying raffle tickets! October was a very successful month, your tickets make for a significant contribution to the guild!

- This December our guild will have its annual fundraiser, a mix of raffle and silent auction. Your donations help support our guild! We're in need of baskets... and prezzies to fill the baskets! We can accept your donations ahead of time, and we'll be ready to receive your donations at our November guild meeting.
- Fiber stored with mothballs cannot be accepted for donation. Thank you for keeping this in mind.
- 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>

Best regards, The Ways and Means committee ~ reach us at [adwsg.waysandmeans@gmail.com](mailto:adwsg.waysandmeans@gmail.com)

### **KNIT, SWIRL! KNIT ALONG (KAL)**

Lauren Goldfish

[adwsg.waysandmeans@gmail.com](mailto:adwsg.waysandmeans@gmail.com)

Knit, Swirl! Knit Along (KAL)

Check out the Knit, Swirl sweater at [this link](#). It's knit in one piece, lends itself well to a variety of handspun and commercial yarns, and works well for knitters of all shapes and sizes. Ravelry has plenty of pictures, and a *Knit, Swirl! Fans* group full of resources. If you're interested, stay after the November meeting so we can discuss how to tackle this pattern: it is simple to knit (almost entirely knit and purl in the round), a fun puzzle pattern to figure out, and a pleasure to wear. -Lauren Goldfish

## LIBRARY

Beki Welsch

[adwsg.librarian@gmail.com](mailto:adwsg.librarian@gmail.com)

This month I purchased two new inkle weaving books by Annie MacHale. Annie writes very clear instructions with lots of photos and charts. She also has YouTube videos demonstrating inkle weaving. Both books will be available for checkout at the Nov meeting.

***In Celebration of Plain Weave: Color and Design Inspiration for Inkle Weavers.*** This book is great for beginning inkle weavers. The simplest form of inkle weaving is plain weave and Annie gives you about 200 different stripe patterns / charts for your warp. She includes patterns with horizontal bars, vertical stripes, speckles, chains, ladders, and teeth - all strictly using plain weave. There is a large section on color theory and one on designing your own patterns.

***Three-Color Pickup for Inkle Weavers: a Modern Look at an Ancient Baltic-Style Technique.*** More advanced inkle weavers will enjoy this book for its variety of symmetrical and asymmetrical patterns. Three-color pick-up differs from traditional Baltic pickup in that you only pick up threads, never drop any. Annie includes links for every pattern to an online pattern editor where you can tweak colors, change the size of the chart, print the charts, and edit in other ways. The patterns in the book are already loaded, and the program is free.

## BEGINNING WEAVING STUDY GROUP

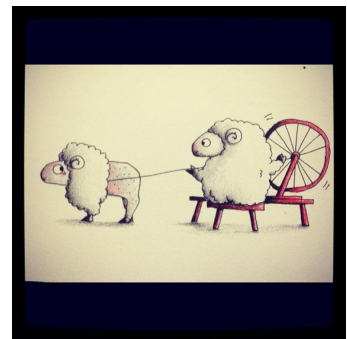
Beki Welsch

[adwsg.librarian@gmail.com](mailto:adwsg.librarian@gmail.com)

The first meeting of the Beginning Weavers Study Group will be on Sunday Nov 3 at 1 PM. If you are interested and haven't yet let me know, please email me [adwsg.librarian@gmail.com](mailto:adwsg.librarian@gmail.com) for directions.

We will be starting with how to pick a project and yarns, and how to warp a loom. No prior weaving experience needed. We plan to meet at people's homes once a month on the weekend with the second meeting on Dec 8. This is a hands-on group for multi-shaft weavers (not rigid heddle).

Beki Welsch



## **FEDERATION**

**Helene Hall**

[adwsg.federation@gmail.com](mailto:adwsg.federation@gmail.com)

Arizona Federation is in the process of organizing traveling teacher Amanda Robinette. Mary Rooney, Ruth Greenspan and Roberta Perpich are contact persons. Dates and class topics are forthcoming. If you're interested in something specific, please let them know.

Plans will begin soon for 2nd Annual Fiber Festival 2025 in Camp Verde. It takes many hands to have a successful event. Please volunteer as you are able. Much more information to follow.

HELENE

## **CRAFTING A CREATIVE MEMOIR**

**Anna Akridge**

[adwsg.webmaster@gmail.com](mailto:adwsg.webmaster@gmail.com)



Interested in exploring a different side of your craft? Announcing "Crafting a Creative Memoir," a creative write-along.

"Crafting a Creative Memoir" is a multi-month guided group project with the goal of helping each of us tell the stories of ourselves as makers and creatives. The project will run during the guild year, from October through May, and at the end, participants will have seven pieces of creative work exploring their origins, values, and aspirations as a maker.

Each month, I send out a theme with a short excerpt or reading, some guided reflection questions to get you thinking about how you relate to the theme, and suggested approaches for the month's "assignment." No previous writing experience is required - this is a chance to explore.

I'm running this project through Substack - a free e-newsletter/blog platform. Go to <https://adwsgcreativememoir.substack.com/> to subscribe for the monthly email notifications (you can also view each month's entry without subscribing, if you prefer). You can review last month's prompt on the Substack page and sign up for future prompts, going out following each month's guild meeting. Contact Anna at [adwsg.webmaster@gmail.com](mailto:adwsg.webmaster@gmail.com) with any questions!

## WORKSHOPS

Roberta Perpich

[adwsg.workshops@gmail.com](mailto:adwsg.workshops@gmail.com)

Hello Guild members!

I have tentatively scheduled a workshop with Amanda Robinette, the traveling teacher, for a two day Western Sakiori Scarf workshop for March 29th and 30th.

I will talk about it at the meeting, as nothing has been finalized other than reserving these dates, I don't know the cost yet, as that will have to be determined once everything is finalized, the presenter fee, the space etc. and then how many will participate. So, I hope all that can be finalized no later than by the January meeting. She can take up to 14 participants.

If you are interested in participating in this workshop, please "reply all" to this email! There will also be interest sign-up sheets at Saturday's meeting.

Roberta Perpich

[adwsg.workshops@gmail.com](mailto:adwsg.workshops@gmail.com)

602-316-5866





## Demonstrations

Jody Dozer

[adwsg.demonstrations@gmail.com](mailto:adwsg.demonstrations@gmail.com)

Thank you everyone who demonstrated at the Phoenix Zoo and AZ State Fair. We had a great time and met new friends. Our demonstrators - Beki, Cheryl, Karla, Julie, Jill, Gaye, Sandy, Mary, Sue, Eliane and myself shared our love of fibers and introduced our guild to many.

Our next opportunity is the Phoenix Quilt, Craft and Sewing Festival Jan 30 to Feb 1, 2025. Please contact Jody if interested in demonstrating.

Thank you again to all who demonstrated.



## OFFICERS FOR 2024-2025

President	Merlyn Heck	<a href="mailto:adwsg.president@gmail.com">adwsg.president@gmail.com</a>
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Vice President Workshops	Roberta Perpich	<a href="mailto:adwsg.workshops@gmail.com">adwsg.workshops@gmail.com</a>
Treasurer	Sue Carneal	<a href="mailto:adwsg.treasurer@gmail.com">adwsg.treasurer@gmail.com</a>
Secretary	Velvet Dishon	<a href="mailto:adwsg.secretary@gmail.com">adwsg.secretary@gmail.com</a>

## COMMITTEE CHAIRS FOR 2024-2025

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Historian	Vacant	<a href="mailto:adwsg.historian@gmail.com">adwsg.historian@gmail.com</a>
Hospitality	Julie Cattaneo	<a href="mailto:adwsg.hospitality@gmail.com">adwsg.hospitality@gmail.com</a>
Interest Groups		
Spinning/Fiber Group	Paula Rudnick	<a href="mailto:adwsg.fibergroup@gmail.com">adwsg.fibergroup@gmail.com</a>
Wonderful Weavers	Ann Ormiston	<a href="mailto:adwsg.weavinggroup@gmail.com">adwsg.weavinggroup@gmail.com</a>
In Person Spinning Group	Nancy Moore	<a href="mailto:rayandnancy@comcast.net">rayandnancy@comcast.net</a>
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75 <sup>TH</sup> Anniversary	Sue Carneal	<a href="mailto:adwsg.anniversary@gmail.com">adwsg.anniversary@gmail.com</a>
Ways & Means	Lauren Goldfish	<a href="mailto:adwsg.waysandmeans@gmail.com">adwsg.waysandmeans@gmail.com</a>
Web Site	Anna Akridge	<a href="mailto:adwsg.webmaster@gmail.com">adwsg.webmaster@gmail.com</a>

### Next Meeting:

**NOVEMBER 2ND** will be in person and on Zoom

**At**

**Northtown Community Center**

Meeting starts at 10 am

### MOA Submission

**Deadline**

**The 15<sup>th</sup> of each month  
September through May**

[adwsg.editor@gmail.com](mailto: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](mailto: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](mailto: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 4th Thursday of each month from 10:00 to 2:00 pm. From the front door, proceed to the library in the far back left corner. Everyone is welcome to attend. Anyone with an interest in spinning may join in, even if you are currently working on something else. The group chair is Nancy Moore [rayandnancy@comcast.net](mailto:rayandnancy@comcast.net)

### 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

**NOVEMBER 2, 2024**

December 7, 2024

January 4, 2025

February 1, 2025

March 1, 2025

April 5, 2025

May 3, 2025

**BRING YOUR OWN CUP**

Thank you for bringing your reusable cups,  
mugs, and utensils to the meetings.  
Let us take care of Our Earth



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**And it will be included in the next MOA**