

THE MOTHER OF ALL

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

Volume 45, Issue 6

April 2017

OFFICERS FOR 2016-2017

President

Caroline Wise
602.618.8970
caracolina@gmail.com

Vice President Programs

Pauline Schultz
480.239.0437
psknits@hotmail.com

Vice Presidents Workshops

Jeanne Forrest
480.626.2884
rdjforrest@yahoo.com

Karen Stromberg
602.327.2847
kastromberg@gmail.com

Treasurer

Sue Carneal
602.677.6343
jscarneal@aol.com

Secretary

Lisa Takata
602.670.4497
lisa.takata@yahoo.com

Editor

Caroline Wise
caracolina@gmail.com

MOA Deadline
15th
September - May

From the President's desk...

Our April meeting is our guild's Annual Meeting; that's when we elect the board for the next year. Eligible voting members are those who have paid dues required for membership. Please come and vote for our new board.

Good news! Sara Jenkins volunteered for the Demonstrations chair position. That means we are only missing an assistant for Workshops. Guild members benefit when we organize good workshops. Please talk with Karen Stromberg about the possibility of becoming her assistant.

This is our slate of officers for the 2017/2018 year:

| | |
|--------------------------|-------------------------|
| President | Caroline Wise |
| Secretary | Lisa Takata |
| Treasurer | Sue Carneal |
| Vice President/Workshops | Karen Stromberg |
| Vice President/Programs | Michelle Cali Mattingly |

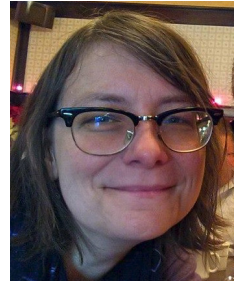
Other positions to be appointed by President:

| | |
|---------------------------|--------------------------|
| Membership | Anita Bellinger/ |
| Membership Assistant | Elaine Rowles |
| Demonstrations | Sara Jenkins |
| Historian | Sue Garber |
| Librarian | Beki Welsch |
| Ways & Means | LaVila Churruca |
| Website | Helene Couture-Hall |
| Hospitality | Mike Williams |
| Federation Rep | Christine Hunt |
| Tapestry Study Group | Mary Conti |
| Fiber Artists Study Group | Judy Lukas/Paula Rudnick |
| Programs Assistant | Pauline Schultz |
| Workshops Assistant | YOU? |

I suppose this is the time when I say that we are still accepting nominations from the floor, as long as the nominee is in agreement. Although I have yet to see that actually happen... But who knows, maybe someone will surprise me?

See you at the meeting!

Caroline



Next Meeting:
April 1st at 10 AM
Northtown Community Center
2202 E. Waltann Lane, Phoenix, AZ

**APRIL PROGRAM: JEN HANCE,
"DRESSING DOWNTOWN"
AT THE ROSSON HOUSE**

*SNACKS AND REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED BY THE BOARD
DOORS OPEN AT 9 AM - COME EARLY AND MINGLE*

EDUCATIONAL GRANT

Congratulations to Christine Hunt, recipient of the 2017 educational grant!

We are looking forward to your presentation about making bamboo reeds in February 2018.

ARIZONA FEDERATION OF WEAVERS AND SPINNERS GUILDS

The next Federation board meeting is on March 25th, 1-4 pm at the Cesar Chavez Library in Laveen. One of our agenda items is Federation Day 2018 which is scheduled for February 2018. If anyone is curious about what the Federation is or does, come to a board meeting and get to know us!

We are seeking volunteers to help with the planning and staffing of Federation Day. If you are interested at all in helping out please talk to Christine Hunt.

The Federation is also compiling a database of Arizona educators and lecturers to be available to all member guilds. If you teach or speak on a subject, we would like to know about it! If you have given a talk to your guild on a pet interest or passion, think of the time you have devoted to developing your talk - the work is already done - won't you share it with others? You are among like-minded friends. For any Federation questions, please contact Christine Hunt or Caroline Wise.

WORKSHOP NEWS BACKSTRAP WEAVING WITH LAVERNE WADDINGTON OCTOBER 2017

Laverne Waddington will be teaching a two-day Double Weave workshop for backstrap weavers this October. Dates are still not firm, but most likely October 14/15 or

21/22. If there is enough interest we can also organize a beginners workshop, so please contact Christine Hunt if you are interested.

ROSALIE NEILSON FEBRUARY 2018

Rosalie Neilson is traveling in Arizona during February 2018 and is available to us at AZ Desert Weavers to offer a 2 day workshop on February 10 and 11, 2018. We have two choices for workshops and need your input!

First option is **Color & Design in Huck Lace Towels** on a 4 or 8 shaft loom.

Second option is **Introduction to Kumihimo: Braiding on the Marudai**.

More details will be available at the guild meeting. For more information prior to that contact Karen Stromberg at kastromberg@gmail.com.

SHEEP SHEARING AND POT LUCK AT THE DOZERS

It is shearing time again and there will be another sheep shearing and pot luck event at the Dozers' place!

Here are the details:

Date: Saturday April 8th

Place: In the pasture at 1540 W. Frier Dr, Phoenix

Time: Starting around 9:30

After shearing people are welcome to stay for a pot luck lunch.

Please confirm by calling Jody at 602 674 9450 or email jody@dozerlane.com

INTEREST GROUPS

TAPESTRY AND BEYOND

Meets after the monthly general ADWSG meeting at Northtown Community Center, 2202 E. Waltann Lane, Phx, 85022. Bring your luncheon/beverage along with any type of loom with warping yarn and various types of yarn for tapestry weaving, or other projects. For more information, contact Mary Conti at mariaconti@cox.net or 425-788-5012. All are welcome.

FIBER ARTISTS GROUP

The Fiber Artists meet on the **second** Wednesday of the month at Northtown Community Center, 2202 E. Waltann Lane, Phx 85022 at 10:00 am. Members bring lunch and beverage.

The Fiber Artists were born when the Weaving Study Group merged with the Daytime Spinners Group. From now on, spinners, weavers, and all fiber artists are welcome. The group's co-chairs are Judy Lukas (602-361-7339) for the months October - May and Paula Rudnick (814-769-1675) for the summer months.



HISTORY OF SILK SPINNING PART 2

This is Val Hilburgh's presentation on silk spinning, held on February 4th, 2017. Since there was so much information to absorb we thought it would be a great idea to publish it as a serial in the MOA.

India is the leading country in production of what are known as "wild silks," silks produced by other moths than the *Bombyx mori* which is the basis of sericulture such as practiced in China, parts of Japan and India. The Indian government promotes the wild silk cottage industries by establishing and funding experimental stations and training centers for growing and processing wild silks throughout India. Likewise the government of China is aware of the economic potential of tussah silk production and supports this ancient industry.

The Tussah or Tussar silks are originally wild silks produced by the larvae of silk-worms that feed on a particular type of oak tree which gives the silk its golden colors. The wild silks of India are Muga and Eri from the Assam area, Tropical Tussar from the Indian Plateaus, and Temperate Tussar from the Himalayas. Muga is a coarse golden-brown or amber colored silk from a silk worm that feeds primarily on plants in the laurel and magnolia families. The light brown cocoon is easily reeled and the fabric is durable and strong. Eri is from Assam, Bengal, and Nepal areas feeding on the leaves of the castor bean plant and producing either white or a reddish-orange silk.

Indian Tussar silk is different from Chinese Tussah silk. Tussah silk is from the Chinese oak silk moth and has been used in China since at least the Han Dynasty (206 BCE To 220 CE). All over China thousands of acres of oak trees are cultivated for tussah production. The Indian Tussar silk, although closely related to the Chinese Tussah, feeds mainly on the jujube tree and while it can be reeled seldom is.

According to one source, two monks traveling through China in the 5th century CE, managed to hide some silkworm eggs and mulberry leaves in a hollow cane. It must have been a very large cane to contain enough mulberry leaves to feed the cocoons at the rate they eat. The two monks smuggled their cache to Constantinople and presented it to Emperor Justinian and from there sericulture spread throughout Europe over the next 500 years.

continued on page 4



Title Plate from a series of engravings about sericulture. Florence, ca 1595



ADWSG Jewelry

Silver logo pins and earrings are available for purchase at the monthly meetings. The "sheep with the woven coat" pins are \$20, and earrings are \$40. See Elaine Rowles for availability.



History of Silk Spinning, continued

After establishment of silk culture in Turkey and Greece, it was carried to Sicily, across into North Africa and then into Spain. With the expansion of Muslim-ruled territory across western Asia and the Mediterranean, the tradition of silk brocade weaving developed. In Spain, Al-Andalus became a center of silk production, including both of imported silk thread and the cultivation of silkworms and silk textiles became important articles of export trade. Andalusian silks at first had similar design motifs to those of Persian, Byzantine, and Mesopotamian origin and Andalusian weavers also copied styles popular in Baghdad. Cordoba was another early textile manufacturing center where as many as 13,000 looms were active at one time. From the 10th century, it was producing silk fabrics and Almeria also became an important silk export center. The Almoravids developed textile production during the 12th century and Spanish weavers became especially skilled at weaving complex designs with fine lines between the colors and very densely woven threads. The surviving examples of these textiles are still brilliant in color.



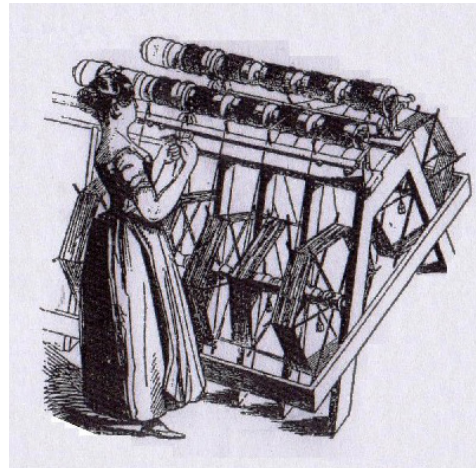
Collecting silk worms and silk weaving in 15th-century France

Silk culture and weaving developed in Italy in Venice and Florence. In the 14th century the weavers specialized in heavy brocades and patterned velvets. The Piedmont area continued to produce some of the finest raw silk in the world until around the turn of the 20th century.

Several French kings invited Italian silk workers to resettle in France and encouraged sericulture with the planting of mulberry trees; some of which are still standing in the Tulleries.

Sericulture has never been very successful in England because of the cool, damp climate; however, several regions are known for their fine silk weaving which was established by Flemish and French weavers fleeing religious persecution in the late 16th and early 17th centuries. In 1598 the first pair of silk stockings was presented to Queen Elizabeth I of England and she never wanted to wear anything but silk stockings thereafter.

In the 18th century Loombe Brothers opened Derby Silk Mill, the world's first modern factory with its silk throwing or spinning machine, the design of which was pirated from Italy in 1717. The factory could make 318,504,960 yards of twisted silk thread in one 24 hour period using Italian and Chinese raw silk and was a major employer in Derby. A special bell summoned workers each morning. Small children were employed to fix tags on silk shoelaces. The mill burned down in 1910. Rebuilt it is now the Derby Industrial Museum, part of the 15 mile Derwent Valley Mills World Heritage Site that stretches from Matlock Bath to Derby along the Derwent River.



19th-century silk winding machine

During the 18th and 19th centuries there were many silk mills in London, however, in the early 1700's David Walters relocated his mill to Sudbury in Norfolk and about 1730 Vannes Silk Weavers also moved to Sudbury. Both companies are still in existence and have produced cloth for the British Royal Family. Walters produced silk for the underskirt of Queen Elizabeth II's wedding dress and for Princess Diana's wedding dress. There were also other silk mills in the Sudbury area at various times.

Started in 1932, Lullingstone, originally located near Enysford, Kent, produced both silk fiber and fabric for royal occasions until its closure in 2004. The farm's success began with the first royal commission by Queen Mary in 1938 and went on to produce both coronation robe and gown for the Queen Mother Elizabeth as well as Queen Elizabeth II's wedding gown and her coronation gown and robe. Altogether, Lullingstone produced five royal wedding dresses as well as christening gowns between 1938 and 2004. The most famous wedding gown was that of Princess Diana, made of an exquisite silk taffeta designed and woven at Lullingstone although the silk thread was augmented by thread from China because the amount needed exceeded the production capacity of the mill.

...to be continued

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COMMITTEES

HISTORIAN

Sue Garber
602.482.3255
sue.garber@cox.net

LIBRARIAN

Beki Welsch
602.997.4512
bekown@yahoo.com

MEMBERSHIP

Anita Bellinger
602.679.9526
abellinger@cox.net

Elaine Rowles
623.628.6851
emrowles@cox.net

DEMONSTRATIONS/ PUBLICITY

Diane Wilson
weavebskts@aol.com
613.376.6452

WEB SITE

Helene Hall
620.203.8092
live2weave@live.com

HOSPITALITY

Mike Williams
623.882.5161
peggyandmike66@gmail.com

WAYS & MEANS

LaVila Churruca
602.997.5462
Ichurruca@q.com

FEDERATION REPRESENTATIVE

Christine Hunt
623.853.6081
hunt.christine@rocketmail.com



ADWSG WEBSITE:
<http://www.adwsg.org>

CALENDAR EVENTS

- **Apr 8, 2017 Sheep Shearing & Pot Luck** - Dozer Residence, 9.30 AM - More info in this newsletter
- **Jun 3-4, 2017 Flag Wool and Fiber Festival** - Flagstaff - <http://www.flagwool.com/>
- **Jul 25-27, 2017 Intermountain Weavers Conference** - Durango, Co. (Registration is open) - <http://www.intermountainweavers.org/>
- **Feb 19 -Oct 29, 2017 Dressing Downtown** - Rosson House, Phoenix - <http://heritagesquarephx.org/learn-2/exhibits/>

MOA DEADLINE

15th of every month From September to May
Visit our guild's website: <http://www.adwsg.org>

First Class

c/o Caroline Wise
18660 N Cave Creek Rd. #244
Phoenix, AZ 85024

