THE MOTHER OF ALL

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

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MOA Deadline
15th
September - May

From the President's desk...

I have recently been reading a book entitled Linen Heirlooms by Constance Gallagher. The book gives a history of early handweaving in America that I found fascinating. Here is some of that history.

In 1718, Daniel Oliver started a spinning school in Boston. Before that, spinners and weavers in America typically worked only with linen and only in their own homes. The next hundred years saw the spread of the industrial revolution across Europe and the colonies.

In England in 1733, John Kay invented the flying shuttle. In 1764, James Hargreaves invented a spinning jenny, and in 1768, Richard Arkwright perfected a method of spinning which allowed cotton to replace linen in the warp. 1786 saw a further improvement in spinning that allowed very fine yarn to be spun. 1786 was the first steam powered loom, invented by Dr. Edmund Cartwright, who later owned a mill with 400 looms. This mill was burned by spinners and weavers who resented his taking away their cottage industries. Eli Whitney invented the cotton gin in 1793 making the preparation of cotton faster and easier.

All these inventions made for lower cost and greater availability of cloth. In addition, during the same time period, the shipping industry expanded and ships carrying good from England and India arrived frequently. This further reduced the need for American spinning and handweaving, though it continued in rural communities where bartering was widespread. In these communities it was considered an extravagance to purchase any finished woven article that could be made at home.

Spinning and weaving was a family affair in rural families. The husband and sons would grow, harvest, break and hackle the flax. Women and girls then carded, spun, bleached, dyed and wove the linen. The spinning wheel and its distaff were the property of the women. (In genealogy, "the distaff side of the family" means the females.) Many households had an unmarried aunt or cousin living with them, and their chief duty was to endlessly spin. This is why an unmarried woman is known as a spinster. A good day's work for her would be two skeins of thread measuring 2400 yards.

Each step in the process of preparing linen was meticulously done to ensure the time and effort expended would result in a quality end product. Many of the woven items that have become heirlooms were woven for a bride-to-be by her mother or grandmother, though some were made by the bride herself.

"Itinerant weavers" were usually men who had served an apprenticeship in America or England and travelled between towns with his warping frame and loom. He would set up in a community and stay until he had finished all the orders he had gotten in the town. The itinerant weavers' looms usually had more harnesses than the home loom, so they could weave more elaborate patterns. These weavers would sometimes help a woman set up her loom and exchange pattern drafts for lodging and board.

"Resident weavers" were men who were also well trained in weaving, but that training was often done in Scotland and Ireland. The Industrial Revolution hit those countries earlier than in America, so the men emigrated in order to find new opportunities in handweaving. The resident weaver made a permanent home in a town and sold his weaving to contractors and individuals. The art and business of weaving was often passed from a resident weaver to his sons.

By the latter part of the 1900s, handweaving in homes was usually done by women, and almost always was a form of recreation and a source of pleasure. Little has changed in that regard as we can see by guild membership. Today, weaving is still done predominately by women and still mostly for recreation, pleasure and sanity.

Beki Welsch

October Program: Aimee Leon

"Artist, Scholar, Sheep Shearer"

Aimee Leon is an artist, a scholar, and a sheep shearer. She spent the summer in the Shetland Islands, the Faroe Islands, and Sweden, doing research on wool harvesting in isolated communities. Aimee will share some of her research and adventures with us during her program on November 2, 2013.

Daytime Spinners bring the Goodies!

Desert Weavers Holiday Live and Silent Auction December 7, 2013

We are all looking forward to the upcoming Holiday Auction at the December meeting. Everyone is encouraged to donate their gently used equipment, baskets of yarn, spinning fibers, books or other items that you no longer need or use. Also any handmade fiber creations, home grown organic garden produce or your famous homemade baked goodies are needed. We would also appreciate donations of gift bags and baskets to use to display donation items.

Donation forms will be available at the November meeting and can also be received by emailing Caroline Wise at caracolina@gmail.com. Donations can be brought to the November meeting. Proceeds from the auction help pay for our wonderful guest speakers and for the rent of our meeting space.

So don't miss the December meeting where you can bid on all the wonderful items you have been wishing for. Thank you in advance for helping to make this a fun event and a succesful fund-raiser.

INTEREST GROUPS

DAYTIME SPINNERS

First Wednesdays at 10 a.m. at Northtown Community Center, 2202 E. Waltann Lane, Phx, 85022. Bring your luncheon/beverage, & join us for a day of spinning. Contact Georgian Ferrante. georgianf@cox.net or 480-948-3705 for more information.

TAPESTRY STUDY GROUP

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. For more information, contact Mary Conti at mariaconti@cox.net or 425-788-5012. All are welcome.

Tapestry Study Group

The Tapestry Study Group will be meeting after our guild meeting, Saturday November, 2nd from 12:15 to +/- 2 PM.

Bring show and tell, questions, challenges, or whatever you are working on. Also, remember to bring items for the auction basket that we, the Tapestry Study Group, will be putting together for our December meeting.

We would love to have anyone interested in tapestry weaving of any kind, big or small, pictorial or abstract, come and join our group.

Mary Conti - 425-788-5012 - mariaconti@cox.net

Daytime Spinners Meeting

The Daytime Spinners meet year-round on the first Wednesday of the month.

Georgian Ferrante
Daytime Spinners Chair - 480-948-3705 - georgianf@cox.net

Verde Valley Weavers & Spinners Guild
40th Anniversary Exhibit & Sale
Sedona Arts Center: October 31 - November 4, 2013

We are celebrating! What better way than with an exhibit/sale of our members' work. You will see time-honored techniques like loom weaving, felting, and handspinning. You will see unique art-to-wear like handmade garments and accessories along with baskets and fiber sculptures.

In keeping with our mission of encouraging interest and education in the art of hand weaving and spinning and related crafts, visitors can enjoy daily demonstrations that will include:

- Floor Loom Weaving
- Basket Weaving
- Spinning
- Felting
- Tapestry Weaving
- Knitting

Come help us celebrate this milestone!

Hours: Thursday - Monday 10 - 5pm
Opening Reception Friday, Nov 1, 5- 8pm

Special Exhibition Gallery at Sedona Arts Center
15 Art Barn Road, Sedona

tri-ply fibers

"Tradition With a Modern Twist"

Jerry Ladd
Shearer/Fiber Artist
www.tri-plyfibers.com

Shearing • Fiber Processing • Blade Sharpening

Contact Information: Jerry@tri-plyfibers.com

Happenings...

Loom/Spinning Wheel Troubles?

Every once in a while our equipment could use a good tune up. Val Hilsburgh let me know that her hasbuand is a woodworker, metal worker and handyman. He has worked on several spinning wheels and probably looms also. If anyone is interested they can contact him through Val at knitval@yahoo.com with their phone number and she'll have him call them to discuss.

New Yarnshop Comes to the Valley

Arizona Yarn & Fiber is a new local yarn shop in Gilbert located at 3133 South Lindsay Road #107. While Arizona Yarn & Fiber is new, the owners Terry and Fred Neal, are not new to the yarn business. For the past eight years they have owned and operated Tempe Yarn & Fiber.

What makes Arizona Yarn & Fiber special? They bring to the southeast valley, quality yarns and supplies that until now have not been available in that area.

They are carrying yarns from: Westminster (including Rowan), Blue Sky Alpaca (including Spud & Chloe), KFI (including Noro), Colinette (including Jitterbug), Trendsetter, Mountain Colors, Made in America Yarn, Manos del Uruguay, Crystal Palace, Misti Alpaca and Cascade. But they don't stop with yarn. They have all the needles, notions, patterns and books to keep you happy, plus an assortment of locally made items (bags, beads, button, metal art and patterns).

Arizona Yarn is a community based shop that will be doing community projects, having open knitting and crochet anytime they are open and will be adding classes based on the needs of the community. They are also a drop off location for Knitted Knockers. They are one of 17 participating shops in the 2013 Arizona Yarn Crawl during October.

Arizona Yarn is open Tuesday through Thursday 11am to 6pm, Friday 11am to 7pm and Saturday 11am to 6pm.

Please Help! Red Scarf Project 2013!

Once again, **One Planet Yarn and Fiber** and **The Fiber Factory,** this holiday season are supporting an organization called the Orphan Foundation of America The Red Scarf Project - Foster Care for Success Program. Children that go through the foster care system often face challenges getting the education they need to lead happy and productive lives. The Foster Care for Success program gives scholarships to further the education of kids who would not have the money to continue their education. In 2005 the Foster Care for Success program began sending the kids that were attending college or vocational schools a Valentine's Day care package. These kids often don't have family or parents who would send care packages to them. So, to show that someone cares - packages are sent with treats including a red hand knitted or crocheted scarf.

You will find all the information about how to help here: http://www.fc2success.org/how-you-can-help/red-scarf-project/

In support of this wonderful project, One Planet Yarn and Fiber is also sponsoring a contest for folks who contribute and mail the scarves to them (alternatively, Fiber Factory in Mesa also accepts contributions). Check the OPYF blog for all the information:

http://oneplanetyarnandfiber.blogspot.com/2013/10/please-help-red-scarf-project-2013.html

Tempe Yarn & Fiber

1415 East University Drive
Tempe, Arizona 85281
480-557-9166
tempeyarn.com

Women Helping Women
knittedknockers.info
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Home of knittedknockers.info

New Times Best Of PHOENIX 2013
Tempe Yarn Voted Best "Knitting Supply Shop"

THE FIBER FACTORY
The Southwest's Most Complete Yarn Shop
Yarn, accessories, equipment & classes for:
Knitting, Weaving, Spinning, Crochet,Tatting, Basketry, Bobbin Lace, & Navajo weaving.

216 W. Main St, Mesa, AZ 85201
480.969.4346
Out of area: 888.969.9276
e-mail: yarn@fiberfactory.com
Visit our website: www.fiberfactory.com

Tempe Yarn's Knitted Knocker Program Named "Breast Cancer Hero"

Over the past three years, Tempe Yarn has been the home for the knittedknockers.info group. Knitted Knockers are prosthetic breasts for mastectomy patients. Terry Neal explained that, "When placed in a bra, these knitted breasts take the shape and feel of a real breast. They are lighter and more comfortable than the silicone prosthetic. The knitted or crocheted fabric breathes and prevents the heat rash experienced by many women wearing the silicone ones."

In the October edition of the Reader's digest, Tempe Yarn's knittedknockers.info program was named one of three "Breast Cancer Heroes." With this national exposure, the group has been scrambling to get volunteers to make enough knockers to keep up with the demand that is coming from across the USA. Knitted Knockers are provide free to mastectomy patients who ask for them. If you or your group would like to help by making Knitted Knockers visit knittedknockers.info to see how you can be part of this life changing program.

HealthDigest

EDITED BY LAUREN GELMAN

DO GOOD

Breast Cancer Heroes You've Never Heard Of

These grassroots groups have made it their passion and mission to give survivors the best life possible

BY BETHANY KANDEL

THE KNITTERS

Laughter and the staccato of clicking needles fill the air at the Tempe Yarn & Fiber shop in Arizona. It's Friday evening, and volunteers lovingly produce colorful piles of "knitted knockers," prostheses for women who have had mastectomies without reconstructive surgery. When put in a bra, the knockers—which are lighter and softer than silicone and plastic versions—look and feel like real breasts.

Since its inception three years ago, the group has supplied more than 2,000 knockers to women in some 40 states.

The website knittedknockers.info provides patterns for do-it-yourselfers and lists groups that make and distribute the prostheses to women in need.

Many of the knitters have first-hand experience with breast cancer. They send off each knocker with >>

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.

Arizona Desert Weavers and Spinners Guild, Inc.
Statement of Activity - Cash Basis
For the Year Ended May 31, 2013

		Amount	%
REVENUE			
Dues		$1,626.00	27.17%
Fund Raiser		1,551.00	25.91%
Ways & Means		691.00	11.54%
Equipment Rental		300.00	5.01%
Other Income		1,752.20	29.27%
Interest Income		65.26	1.09%
Total Revenue		$5,985.46	100.00%
EXPENSES			
Awards	$400.00		6.68%
Demos	13.24		0.22%
License	10.00		0.17%
Postage	0.00		0.00%
Workshop Expense	81.95		1.37%
Rental Expense	1,200.00		20.05%
Program Expense	500.00		8.35%
Hospitality	31.76		0.53%
Library Expense	480.00		8.02%
Dues	89.00		1.49%
Membership	222.47		3.72%
Insurance	400.00		6.68%
Web Site	96.35		1.61%
Printing	204.36		3.41%
Professional Fees	175.00		2.92%
Total Expenses		3,904.13	65.23%
Increase (Decrease) in Net Assets		$2,081.33	34.77%

Guild Rental Equipment

Our guild has equipment for rental if you are interested in trying out a new technique or looking for equipment for a class. Several members are storing the various items however you can contact me for rental details.

Sue Garber
602-482-3255 or Sue.garber@cox.net

Guild Rental Equipment List:

Table Looms		Weaving Width
1	8 Harness Leclerc	22 max
1	4 Harness Rasmussen	24
Floor Looms		
1	4 Harness Baby Wolf	
1	4 Harness Pendleton	36
Other Types of Looms		
1	Inkle Loom	
1	Tapestry	18

Spinning

1	Louet S10 Spinning Wheel with 2-bobbin Lazy Kate attached
1	Ashford Traditional Wheel
1	4-bobbin Lazy Kate
1	Drumcarder
1	Cotton handcarders
1	Wool handcarders
1	Swift
1	Niddy Noddy
1	30" Navajo Style Spindle
1	Manual Bobbin Winder

~ Classified Ads ~

For Sale:

Skein Winder Converter for "Legacy" wood swifts. Attaches to top of swift. New $10 - Contact David 602-686-2054

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ADWSG WEBSITE:
http:/www.adwsg.org

CALENDAR EVENTS

- **November 2, 2013** - **Navajo Weavers Marketplace** - Heard Museum. For more info: http://www.heard.org/
- **November 2, 2013** - **Southwest Fiber Arts Festival** - Tubac Presidio Park, 10am - 4pm - Admission $5 adult, $2 youth (7-13), children free. For more info: http://tubacpp.com/Fiberarts.html
- **November 15 -16, 2013 - Fiber Arts Festival** - A 2-Day Celebration of All Things Fiber! - Grant County Conference Center, 3031 Highway 180 East, Silver City, New Mexico. Info link: http://www.fiberartscollective.org/festival.html

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
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Phoenix, AZ 85024