



# 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...

Dear Desert Fiber Enthusiasts,

As I am struggling once more to compile a story for the newsletter I repeat to myself that this is my last newsletter, both as president and as editor.

Are you familiar with this quote: "All good things come to an end"? I've used it a lot in my English-speaking life, but wasn't sure of its origin, so I checked the Internet. Geoffrey Chaucer (of "Canterbury Tales" fame) is credited with the first use of the the idiom (albeit not verbatim), in his poem Troilus and Criseyde (1385). The sentiment is, of course, that everything is temporary, even if we don't want it to be.

Now, I will admit, over the last two years I have wished for this moment to come, more than once. Taking on two offices was, in retrospect, foolish. And more than one of you told me so at the time. However, I had given myself a challenge and felt I needed to rise to it, and while I struggled and faltered along the way, I believe I succeeded and ultimately benefited greatly. Many things that I thought would be difficult turned out to be easy, yet I encountered unexpected issues that surprised me. In those cases I gladly accepted the support of my board.

I thank my board members and all of you guild members who have been there for me. I have received wonderful notes of appreciation for which I am very grateful. Wearing my hat as editor I especially thank Sylvia Fitzgerald for her proofreading super powers.

The biggest surprise however is that right now as I'm writing this, I'm feeling downright wistful about my tenure coming to an end. Don't get me wrong, I'm looking forward to "retirement", being able to do what I want with my weekends (even miss a guild meeting, maybe!). It is hard to explain, but I know that I can look back at a great time in my life. I sincerely hope that Christine will have a similar good experience and wish her all the best.

See you at our last meeting before Summer!

Caroline



Now that she had retired, Doris spent most of her free time on the front porch knitting underpants for squirrels.

Next Meeting:  
May 5th 10 AM  
Northtown Community Center  
2202 E. Waltann Lane, Phoenix, AZ

## MAY PROGRAM: STUDY GROUP AND WORKSHOP SHOW-AND-TELL

*POTLUCK! SNACKS AND REFRESHMENTS PROVIDED BY THE WHOLE GUILD  
DOORS OPEN AT 9 AM - COME EARLY AND MINGLE*

### FIBER ARTISTS GROUP: NOW ON THIRD WEDNESDAYS

As of June this year, the Spinners Group (a.k.a. Fiber Artists) are meeting on the **Third Wednesday of every month**. This is also a good time to mention that **this group meets all year long** while the main meetings go on summer break. Meetings start at 10 AM, but the room will be open by 9. All those who want to can bring a lunch/beverages and meetings conclude around 2 PM.

### LIBRARY NEWS

At the last Fiber Arts Group meeting, guild librarian Beki Welsch gave a tour of the library to their members, some of whom are new to the guild. They were very excited by the extent of the collection and how easy it is to check things out. They checked out about 10 items to keep for the summer. Interested members can get a tour of the collection at our May (or any) meeting. Everything checked out in May can be kept until October.

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

'Tis the season to renew your membership! Don't miss out and bring your membership check to the meeting or mail it to Sue Carneal:

Sue Carneal  
P.O. Box 4362  
Cave Creek, AZ 85327-4362

### ENJOY YOUR SUMMER!

I hope all of you travelers will have a fun time wherever your journey takes you! If you run into anything textile-related, don't forget the guild! You can email photos or links to Ann Ormiston, the new editor at [annoutwest@live.com](mailto:annoutwest@live.com).

If you are staying at home - have fun crafting! And you may want to remember to make a little extra, for the December fundraiser for example - or for another Secret Valentine.  
*Caroline*

### EXALTATION OF BLOCKS BY ROSALIE NEILSON: ADDENDUM AVAILABLE

For those who have purchased Rosalie's book *Exaltation of Blocks* there is an addendum available online. Rosalie sent out this message:

*The Section Two Design Pages, which illustrate the definitive number of 4-block motifs, have Transparent Overlays that transform them into 5-, 6-, 7-, and 8-block motifs. I have written an Addendum to the book describing how the outlines are arranged in twill progressions. In fact, the 6-page Addendum illustrates all of the tie-ups for the 5-, 6-, 7-, and 8-end twills.*

*The Addendum is a PDF on the home page of my website and on the page describing the book. Scroll down and click on the box labeled Border Outlines: The Definitive Tie-up of Shafts for Twill Structures. You can download the PDF and print the Addendum. Seeing how the outline borders are organized on the Transparent Overlays helps when developing the higher-ordered motifs of Section Two. Feel free to share the information with others in your weaving world.*

The links to the two pages are listed below.

<https://www.rosalieneilson.com/>  
<https://www.rosalieneilson.com/books/an-exaltation-of-blocks>



## 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](mailto:mariaconti@cox.net) or 425-788-5012. All are welcome.

### ***FIBER ARTISTS GROUP***

The Fiber Artists meet **year-round on the third 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 chair is Paula Rudnick (814-769-1675).



## **SHEARING AT THE DOZERS'**

On March 24th the Jody and Cheryl invited all of us to their annual sheep shearing and potluck event and it was a fun day for everyone attending. Even though I was so excited about it being scheduled on a weekend I was unfortunately unable to join and therefore am grateful for Val Hilburgh for sending a otos.



## **DEMONSTRATING AT THE COUNTY FAIR**



Photo by Lisa Takata

### **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.



# NATURAL DYEING WITH RIC RAO

By Lawrence Peters

Because of my interest in eco-printing, which is part of the tradition of natural dyeing, Christine Hunt put me in touch with Ric Rao. Some guild members have been fortunate to participate in his workshops. When an opportunity arose for me to be in Las Cruces, I reached out to Ric to see if I could study with him to learn about using mordants in eco-printing and about natural dyes. His gracious response was for me to collaborate with him. He was intrigued by the vibrant pinky-orange I was getting when eco-printing with eucalyptus leaves.



Day one focused on eco-printing. I had brought local citrus leaves and fresh eucalyptus leaves (which I am pretty certain are from California) with me. So, phase one was to eco-print just using the leaves and no mordants. Phase two was to use two mordants – ferrous sulfate and copper sulfate. After “cooking” our bundles, Ric and I were surprised and delighted with the results.

Using just the eucalyptus leaves Ric was able to get a vibrant pinky-orange (the scarf on the left). He was also very happy with the greens from the citrus leaves. My results were equally satisfying. The ferrous sulfate performed as expected. It “sadden” the colors that came from the citrus and eucalyptus leaves (the second and third scarves in from the left). The “loss” of color was more than offset by the starkness of the prints made by the leaves. The copper sulfate amped up the colors. The green of the citrus leaves is almost electric, and the pinky-orange of the eucalyptus became even more vibrant (the three scarves on the right).

Day two was a new territory for me. Dye pots were made using the chamissa plant, freeze dried indigo, and dried cochineal bugs. The 18th Century Scarlet Recipe was used to make the cochineal dye pot. It is the one employed by the British to make those red coats red.



Depending upon the wool, the intensity of the red in the skeins varied. Interestingly the silk did not dye as deeply red as expected.



The silk held its own in taking the indigo and chamissa dyes. A great deal of enjoyment came from dipping the chamissa and cochineal dyed skeins into the indigo. That's how the greens and purple were achieved on the wool skeins.



I decided to “sacrifice” some of my eco-printed silk scarves. I dipped the eco-printed citrus leaves into the chamissa dye pot and eco-printed eucalyptus leaves into the cochineal dye pots. The pictures below really to not do justice to the results.



The experience of eco-printing and natural dyeing with Ric Rao was so rich and rewarding. There were not any “wrong” outcomes. Each printed or dyed piece revealed its uniqueness and beauty. I cannot wait until April 9, 2018 when I take the Masterclass on Fabric Painting and Dyeing at the Arizona Opera!

## ZUCCHINI ALMOND BUTTER BLONDIES

Virginia Glenn sent this recipe since several guild members asked for it. I somehow missed this at the last meeting (to be honest, I haven't been able to eat much at the meetings - too busy talking to everyone) - so I'm hoping these blondies will make a reappearance soon, so that I can get a taste... Thank you for sharing, Virginia! *Caroline*

### Ingredients

- 1 cup creamy almond butter
- 1 egg
- ½ teaspoon Himalayan sea or Kosher salt
- ½ teaspoon baking soda
- ½ cup coconut sugar
- ½ teaspoon pure vanilla extract
- ½ cup dark chocolate chips
- 1 large zucchini (grated)

1. Preheat the oven to 350°F. Line an 8” x 8” baking dish with parchment paper

2. In a large bowl, mix together the almond butter, egg, salt, baking soda, sugar and vanilla until well combined. Fold in the chocolate chips and zucchini. Pour into a prepared dish pressing down to spread evenly

3. Bake for 25-30 minutes or until golden brown and a toothpick comes out clean. Let cool slightly before serving

You can also add walnuts, and chopped dates and maybe more zucchini. Shredded coconut might be good too.

## FLAGSTAFF WOOL & FIBER FESTIVAL

This year's festival will take place June 2nd and 3rd at the Pioneer Museum in Flagstaff, although the workshops start on June 1st. You can learn or practice dyeing with cellulose fibers or wool, spin plant and animal fibers in a variety of ways (including a Navajo hip spindle!), felting and weaving. Registration is open!

Go to <http://www.flagwool.com> for more information about the workshops, competition, vendors and so on.

## STAYING AFTER OUR GUILD MEETINGS

At the January meeting, several people brought their spinning wheels and spindles and a good time was had. Since we have the room until 3 PM on the days when we meet, there is no reason why we couldn't do this after every guild meeting!

The Tapestry Group is meeting at the same time and would be very happy to share the room with more crafting people. Bring your wheels, spindles, knitting, or other portable project! If you have questions or would like mentoring please let us know before the general meeting so we can find someone to get together with you after the meeting concludes.

## BRING YOUR OWN CUP

Thank you for bringing your own reusable cups or mugs and utensils to the meetings. The styrofoam cups are bad for the environment and the guild has to pay for them. Same goes for plastic forks.



<https://www.art.com/products/p30020716886-sa-i8824713/sheep-ewe-pink-heart-shaped-wool.htm>



Here are some photos from the 2013 May meeting that I found on my computer. when I was looking for guild equipment information. I was about to take over the MOA back then, but apparently did not use these pictures, so I thought I'd share them with you this way.



## THE FIBER FACTORY

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

## CALENDAR EVENTS

- Feb 24 - May 13, 2018 **Iris van Herpen: Transforming Fashion** - Phoenix Art Museum - <http://www.phxart.org/exhibition/iris-van-herpen>
- June 2 - 3, 2018 **Flagstaff Wool & Fiber Festival** - Pioneer Museum, Flagstaff - <http://www.flagwool.com>

## 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

