

# THE MOTHER OF ALL

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

February 2019

70<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY

Volume 47, Issue 5

## *From the President's Desk*

*Christine Hunt*

Education is a central part of our Arizona Desert Weavers and Spinners' Guild mission. Hopefully you have been able to attend our monthly speakers program and some of our many guild workshops and demonstrations. Our members have a wealth of knowledge and whatever your interests, there is someone able to offer you guidance and encouragement on your personal fiber arts journey. Each year, our guild sponsors an Education Grant program that enables one of our members to pursue a specific area of study with financial support from ADWSG. Is there an intriguing fiber arts topic that you want to delve into? A fiber arts workshop that may be a little beyond your budget? A travel opportunity or experience that would broaden and deepen your knowledge of fiber arts? All of these possibilities are open to you if you apply for a guild education grant before our February 2, 2019 guild meeting. The application process is simple, just write us a paragraph or two describing the education opportunity you have in mind and email it to me before February 2 at [president@adwsg.org](mailto:president@adwsg.org). Our board will meet in February to review all applications to select a recipient for the 2019 grant. If you are awarded the grant, you will be a featured speaker at one of our monthly guild meetings in 2020 where you will have an opportunity to share what you have learned with us. I am a past education grant recipient and used the funds to travel to a workshop where an instructor from Japan showed us how to build a traditional bamboo reed for a loom. It was a process I had been very interested in, but it would have been difficult to figure out on my own. Spending time learning about Japanese culture and getting to know students from elsewhere in the USA and Canada were side benefits to this experience. My presentation to the guild featured photographs of the construction process and some history of these beautiful handcrafted reeds. I also brought examples of the materials and demonstrated a few techniques so people could see how the process unfolds. Paula Rudnick is the 2018 Education Grant recipient and will be talking with us about Saori weaving, which is a Japanese weaving technique and philosophy about weaving your intentions. I can't wait to hear and see what she has learned over the past year. Please consider writing up a short proposal explaining how you might use a guild Education Grant during the coming year. We welcome your ideas and sometimes the very act of writing down your intentions has the positive impact of giving momentum to achieving your goals during the year to come. I hope to hear about your education goals this coming year!



*Christine Hunt*



## OFFICERS FOR 2018-2019

|                          |  |
|--------------------------|--|
| President                | <a href="mailto:president@adwsg.org">Christine Hunt</a>  |
| Vice President Programs  | <a href="mailto:programs@adwsg.org">Mary Humme</a>       |
| Vice President Workshops | <a href="mailto:workshops@adwsg.org">Karen Stromberg</a> |
| Treasurer                | <a href="mailto:treasurer@adwsg.org">Sue Carneal</a>     |
| Secretary                | <a href="mailto:secretary@adwsg.org">Lisa Takata</a>     |

### COMMITTEE CHAIRS FOR 2018-2019

|                           |   |
|---------------------------|---|
| Historian                 | <a href="mailto:historian@adwsg.org">Sue Garber</a>         |
| Librarian                 | <a href="mailto:librarian@adwsg.org">Beki Welsch</a>        |
| Membership                | <a href="mailto:membership@adwsg.org">Trish Boon</a>        |
| Assistant:                | Elaine Rowles   |
| Demonstrations/Publicity  | <a href="mailto:demonstrations@adwsg.org">Sara Jenkins</a>  |
| Web Site                  | <a href="mailto:webmaster@adwsg.org">Helene Hall</a>        |
| Hospitality               | <a href="mailto:hospitality@adwsg.org">Mary Conti</a>       |
| Interest Groups           | <a href="mailto:fibergroup@adwsg.org">Paula Rudnick</a>     |
|                           | <a href="mailto:hospitality@adwsg.org">Mary Conti</a>       |
| Ways & Means              | <a href="mailto:waysandmeans@adwsg.org">LaVila Churruca</a> |
| Federation Representative | <a href="mailto:fibergroup@adwsg.org">Paula Rudnick</a>     |
| Newsletter Editor         | <a href="mailto:editor@adwsg.org">Ann Ormiston</a>          |

#### MOA Submission Deadline

The 15<sup>th</sup> of each month September through May  
[editor@adwsg.org](mailto:editor@adwsg.org)

**Next Meeting: Saturday February 2, 2019**

2202 E. Waltann Lane Phoenix  
Doors open at 9 am, Meeting starts at 10 am

**MEMBERS WITH LAST NAMES STARTING WITH A-M**

**BRING REFRESHMENTS**

#### ADWSG WEBSITE

<http://www.adwsg.org>

Follow us on

[FACEBOOK](#)

Join Us for Our Monthly Meetings:

10 am

Northtown Community Center  
2202 E. Waltann Lane, Phoenix,  
AZ

Doors Open at 9 am

Come Early and Mingle!

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

February 2, 2019

March 2, 2019

April 6, 2019

October 5, 2019

November 2, 2019

December 7, 2019

January 4, 2020

BRING YOUR OWN CUP

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

## **February Program**

**Paula Rudnick**

### **On Saori Weaving**

Paula was the recipient of the guild grant to study Saori weaving, and will have a 30-45 presentation on what she accomplished. Saori weaving is a free-form style of weaving that features color and texture, where there are no 'mistakes' in the weaving process.

*Thank you ADWSG for all the lovely cards and good wishes.  
I am doing well and hope to be back weaving soon.  
What a wonderful guild with so many great friends.  
Bernie Goodrich*

## **EDUCATIONAL GRANT**

Our guild offers an educational grant to a member who would like to explore a new skill or further develop a skill of a fiber related craft. You may use the grant award for workshop fees or materials. Submit a written application to any board member, outlining your area of study and how you will use the grant. The only stipulation is that you will share your newly learned or improved skill with the membership at a monthly meeting the following year. This is a great opportunity for the participating member as well as the guild. The recipient of the educational grant is chose in February.

## **2<sup>ND</sup> ANNUAL SECRET VALENTINE EXCHANGE**

**Caroline Wise**



**IT'S TIME FOR THE SECRET VALENTINE EXCHANGE!** You don't have to sign up for the Secret Valentine. Anyone can decide to participate on the day of the February meeting, as long as they bring their gift. That said it would be nice to get an idea if there is any interest. Please let me know by emailing me at [caracolina@gmail.com](mailto:caracolina@gmail.com).

## DEMONSTRATIONS/PUBLICITY

**Sara Jenkins**

We will need volunteers for the 2019 Phoenix Quilt, Craft & Sewing Festival, January 31 - February 2, 2019 at Arizona State Fairgrounds, 1826 West McDowell Rd Phoenix AZ 85007. Signup sheets will be available at the meeting. Need to pay for parking.

Volunteers are also needed for: Folk and Heritage Festival <https://glendaleaz.com/srpha/>

Date: Saturday, March 2 and Sunday, March 3 Time: 10:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. or shifts from 10:00 to 1:30 and 1:30 to 5:00

This event features more than 150 performers presenting everything from folk and bluegrass music to cowboy poetry and storytelling. Other highlights include historic site tours, blacksmith demonstrations, a children's stage and activity area, along with workshops led by accomplished entertainers.

Free parking Location: SAHAURO RANCH PARK 9802 N 59<sup>th</sup> Ave Glendale

## PROFILES IN FIBER MEET YOUR GUILD MEMBERS

**Beki Welsch**

My interest in textiles began when I learned to sew when I was around 12. I sewed many clothing items throughout my junior high and high school years. This experience helped me learn to envision what a pattern would look like using different materials, the same skill needed to visualize a weaving pattern using your yarns.

At ASU, I earned a BFA (Bachelor of Fine Arts) in crafts. I really enjoyed my woodworking and textile classes. One of the woodworking assignments was to build a tapestry loom. That was completed before spring break, with the weaving due after spring break. No instructions given. My weaving was very trapezoidal. After college I was a custom furniture builder for about a dozen years.

In the textile classes, I learned silk screening, dyeing, basketry techniques, etc. There were six floor looms for the students, but the professor did not know how to weave. I checked out a book from the library and taught myself, then the other students how to warp a loom and weave. My first weaving was with speaker wire warp and paper bag weft. I fell in love with weaving and bought my first loom, a used six-shaft floor loom. This was my only loom until 25 years later. It is still my favorite.

I enjoy trying different weave structures and taking workshops. I really like exploring iridescence and color and weave. Recently I have been doing a lot of repurposing other textiles into my weavings. To this day I feel I am much more a crafts person than an artist but I have found that my creativity has grown since I retired. My weavings are functional items like towels, clothing, rugs, shawls, etc. Many years ago, someone told me a handwoven dress I was wearing looked like sweatshirt material. This inspired me to try weaving with finer and finer yarns which has been very rewarding.

I find weaving very relaxing, and don't mind warping, even with very fine yarns. As Sharon Alderman once told me, weaving with fine threads means you get to weave for a long time before needing to warp again.

**PROFILES IN FIBER**  
**MEET YOUR GUILD MEMBERS**  
Written by Lisa Takata

Meet **Steven McEwen**, artisan wheelwright. Steven discovered ADWSG through our Facebook page in 2017 when he moved to Rio Rico, Arizona after retiring from a career as a juvenile parole officer for the State of Montana. Some members of our guild met him during the Arizona Federation event last spring. If you have seen Steven's posts on our guild Facebook page, you already know what a talented artisan he is. He spent 15 years repairing and restoring all kinds of spinning wheels, which familiarized him with many designs and styles of wheels used throughout the world. He credits his fiber arts guild friends for advising him on what wheel features are desirable and for insisting that he learn how to spin yarn.

Today Steven has a successful business designing and making one of a kind custom spinning wheel, in collaboration with his clients. While other wheelwrights work from a few base designs that they modify for clients, Steven draws up an individual plan for every spinning wheel he builds, based on a client's response to twenty questions he poses about preferences of style, type of wood, the size of the drive wheel, orifice height, speed of bobbins, and the height the user sits at. He consults with the client on every aspect of their dream wheel and does all of the fabrication. He does unique decorative detailing around a customer's favorite theme - such as the turquoise and amethyst inlay hummingbird and carved bone blossom he recently installed for a spinning wheel customer who loves hummingbirds. Though the typical custom wheel is priced at several thousands of dollars, Steven's wheelwright services are in great demand and he has already built six custom wheels. Test driving the completed wheel is an important part of the process. "People always want their wheels right away," he says, "but I like to keep them for awhile and spin on them, checking for quirks."

With a background in sociology, Steven studies how spinning wheels have been used around the world. In Scotland, for instance, wheels were made using locally sourced wood, with designs ideally suited to spin local sources of fiber. "Society has changed direction on how wheels are used today," Steven says. "They are no longer required to make clothing, so they're now used at social gatherings for art activities."

Steven finds time between his spinning wheel commissions for a limited amount of wheel repair and restoration work. One of his recent projects called for him to rebuild an heirloom spinning wheel once owned by the customer's great grandmother. Although no one in the family knew how to spin, Steven insisted that the wheel be rebuilt as a functional item capable of making yarn, instead of remaining a decorative item. Steven also crafts custom made to order accessories for anything having to do with spinning. Popular items include umbrella swifts, lazy kates and niddy noddys.

For more information and a peek at recent wheelwright projects, visit Steven McEwen at <http://www.Qsqualitywoodwork.com> or at Q's Quality Woodwork on Facebook.

## Natural Dyes and Basketry with Ric Rao

Claudia Cocco



Arizona Desert Weavers and Spinners had quite the treat during the month of November when Ric Rao came to town.

In addition to giving the November meeting presentation, *Growing Color*, Ric also taught two one day workshops. *Eco-Dying* is where participants dye patterns on silk scarves using natural botanicals. The workshop was co-taught with our own Lawrence Peters, who presented an alternative dying method using botanicals. Ric also taught a one-day *Pine Needle Basketry* workshop. The workshops were hosted by Ann Ormiston on her studio farm in Waddell, AZ.

Both workshops were intense and lots of fun - handouts were provided so that anyone could make their own go of it. The scarves all came out beautifully and many workshop participants talked about plans for making more for holiday gifts. Making the pine baskets required a lot of concentration. The outcome was completely worth the investment of time - working with pine not only was good aromatherapy, it tested coordination skills as well!

Ric lives in Las Cruces, New Mexico. He has an easy going teaching style that is not intimidating, but very encouraging. Talking to Ric about natural dyes is like tapping into an encyclopedia of knowledge on growing plants for dying. Currently he is working on a book that will detail his years of work on studying plants and the effects of weather on plant color. Can't wait till it comes to print!



Ric shows different types of pine needles used to make baskets.



Ric and Lawrence direct botanical placement on the prepped silk scarf blanks.

## WORKSHOP NEWS

Karen Stromberg

**Feb 23 and 24, 2019 Tara Rothwell Saori Workshop** Will be held at the home of Paula Rudnick. Deposit is \$100 payable to ADWSG and mailed to Sue Carneal, **P O Box 4362, Cave Creek, AZ 85327**. Email Karen Stromberg, [kastromberg@gmail.com](mailto:kastromberg@gmail.com) or 602-327-2847 cell phone **WORKSHOP IS NOW FULL !**

**March 16 10:00 am to 4:00 pm**

**Mary Conti to Teach beginning tapestry wedge weave in a one day workshop**

**Date** March 16 **Time** 10:00 am to 4:00 pm

**Place** At the home of Karen Stromberg cross streets Cactus Rd and 52nd St.- exact address to be provided

**Cost** \$30 - checks will be accepted at the February guild meeting and then by mail to Sue Carneal. Maximum 10 people.

After a wonderful presentation on tapestry weave by Mary Conti last month, she agreed to teach a one day weaving workshop on basic tapestry and variations including wedge weave to guild members.

This is going to be a basic to intermediate tapestry weaving class. You will also learn how to warp the loom you will be using, (twig, frame, or cardboard). For more details contact Karen Stromberg, [kastromberg@gmail.com](mailto:kastromberg@gmail.com)

## A Weaving Well Done

Ann Ormiston

Congratulations to **Claudia Cocco** for exhibiting two of her weavings at the FCF Holland Gallery in North Scottsdale this past January.



*White Black and Gray* is a double cowl



Weaving Demonstration at the Gallery



A Sonoran Spring – Globe Mallow a green runner

## ADWSG 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary

Claudia Cocco

2023 might seem a long way off, but when it comes to planning a group's project, personal contributions and a group celebration you can't start too early. That said, it would be really wonderful, if you haven't already, to please respond to our initial survey on the types of activities you think would be appropriate for the guild to plan for our 75th Anniversary year.

Please (1) drop the hard copy survey in the mail to Claudia Cocco at [26806 N. 41st Street, Cave Creek, AZ 85331](#), or (2) email your responses to Claudia at [ccocco@mac.com](mailto:ccocco@mac.com), or (3) even better yet - answer the online survey with the link provided in your email. If you've lost the email, please contact Ann Ormiston and she will resend you the link.

It will take you less than three minutes! It's your guild, and your input is important! We'd like to be able to share the responses at the [February](#) meeting.

### ADWSG BOARD MEETING

**February 2, 2019, will immediately follow the general meeting.**

### EVENT CALENDAR

- Through – March 24, 2019 “Ultracontemporary” Phoenix Art Museum, Ellman and Lewis galleries [www.phxart.org/exhibition/ultracontemporary](http://www.phxart.org/exhibition/ultracontemporary)
- Feb 2 2019 Education Grant Application Deadline
- Feb 2 2019 Secret Valentine Exchange – ADWSG Monthly Guild Meeting
- Feb 23 & 24, 2019 Tara Rothwell, Saori Weaving Workshop Sponsored by ADWSG
- Thru April 1, 2019 ARIZONA! by Choi+Shine Architects, a hand-crocheted lace ribbon 8' wide x 600+ ft. long meanders along the Arizona Canal in the Scottsdale Waterfront. <https://canalconvergence.com/public-art/arizona/>
- May 17, 18, 19 2019 2019 New Mexico Fiber Crawl [www.NMFiberCrawl.org](http://www.NMFiberCrawl.org)

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## INTEREST GROUPS

Meet at Northtown Community Center,  
2202 E. Waltann Lane, Phoenix

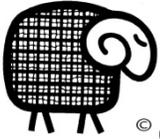
### EXPLORING FIBER ARTS GROUP

Previously known as Tapestry and Beyond. Meets after the monthly general ADWSG meeting. Everyone is invited to come and enjoy 2 to 3 hours, working on your favorite fiber art. Bring your lunch/beverage. Our goal is to learn something new, get help finishing an old project or just explore a new activity. It can be spinning, all types of weaving, beading, knitting, crochet, embroidery, hand sewing, reverse appliqué, macrame, basketry, etc...The sky is the limit. For more information, contact [Mary Conti](mailto:MaryConti@mariaconti.com) at [mariaconti@cox.net](mailto:mariaconti@cox.net). I am looking forward to seeing all the new projects you are working on! All are Welcome!

### SPINNING/FIBER GROUP

Meets the Third Wed of each month (all year long). Bring your spinning wheels or any project you are working on, i.e. spinning, knitting, weaving, sewing, whatever. We talk about new ideas or problems. It is an informal group. Doors open at 9am, we have a little meeting at 10am. At noon we break for lunch, after we continue informally until 2 pm. We usually have one field trip a year and a Holiday outing in December. Come and join our group. The group chair is [Paula Rudnick](mailto:PaulaRudnick@paularudnick.com) 814-769-1675.





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**FIRST CLASS**