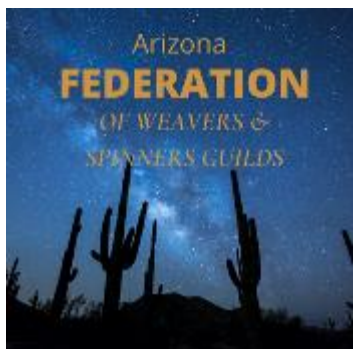


## Fiber Flashes

- The Arizona Federation of Weaving and Spinning Guilds represents 11 guilds around Arizona dedicated to sharing, learning, demonstrating, and encouraging the arts and crafts related to fiber: weaving, spinning, knitting, crocheting, felting...we embrace "all things fiber!" See who we are and how to find us on Page 6.
- Find us here on our [Facebook group](#), and [webpage](#).
- In this issue, travel with Virginia Glenn to Peru, read about Lauren Goldfish and Susan Bollinger's experience with the Flagstaff Wool and Fiber Festival, and find a great pattern for sewing your hand-wovens into a jacket, courtesy of Mary Humme.

## Federation Board Members

- Ruth Greenspan, President (Arizona Desert Weavers and Spinners)
- Mary Humme, Vice-President (Fiber Artists of N. Arizona)
- Carol Byrne, Treasurer (Weavers West)
- Vacant: Secretary
- Contact Email: [contact@azfed.org](mailto:contact@azfed.org)



## President's Corner

My experience of being a fiber artist has changed considerably over the four years since my retirement. The most immediate change was that I had much more time to devote to fiber arts than I did when working full-time. I took classes and explored new techniques. I took on leadership roles in my fiber arts guild and in the Federation. The balance of my social interactions shifted between work colleagues and fiber friends. And then COVID-19 happened.

COVID hit all of us, often in unexpected ways. My guild cancelled workshops and started meeting via Zoom. I stopped having fiber play dates with friends. Although I missed the in person contact, I did not find this time isolating; in fact, it opened up my world considerably. I took online workshops and joined various fiber groups on social media. Although we haven't met in person, I have dozens of new friends and colleagues all over the world that I interact with on a regular basis. We share information, ideas, and inspiration.

COVID affected the Federation as well. The Board started meeting via Zoom. The Traveling Teacher Program and plans for in-person gatherings were put on hold. Behind the scenes the Board worked on ways to make the Federation more visible during a time when little was happening in person. We started a Facebook group that has, at this writing, 170 members. We reinitiated this newsletter. We are revamping our website. We continue to offer two education grants each year: one for guilds and one for individuals. The Forum continues to be a place where members statewide can share information, ask questions, advertise workshops, buy and sell equipment, and keep up with the activities of fellow fiber artists. There are plans for reinstating the Traveling Teacher program and possibly for an in-person gathering in 2024.

But we can't do any of this without your help. At our April meeting we will be electing a new President and a new Secretary. These two positions are critical to keeping the Federation going. If you or any of your fellow guild members would like to assist in developing and implementing the Federation's vision, please consider running for office. Contact your Guild Representative or any Board member if you are interested in serving or would like more information.

In the meantime, I wish all of you a happy and health holiday season, and a creative year ahead! ~~~ Ruth Greenspan

## On the Trail for Textiles in Peru

This was my 4th trip to Peru and the second one organized by Andean Textile Arts ([andeantextilearts.org/](http://andeantextilearts.org/)) in conjunction with the Center for Traditional Textiles in Cusco ([textilescusco.org/](http://textilescusco.org/)). This one was different from my previous trips. The travelers were members of the Board of ATA, some family, and volunteers. Our focus was on reconnecting with CTTC and the weaving communities we support and to find out how they were affected by COVID and if they're ready for us to resume bringing tour groups to visit.

We flew into Lima and then on to Cusco the next day. We joined the folks who had gone on pre-tours to Lake Titicaca or Machu Picchu and then on to the Lizzy Wasi hotel in Urubamba (9,700 ft elevation). The Lizzy Wasi is a lovely hotel with the rooms arranged around a beautiful garden. The Lizzy Wasi was our home base for visits to the weaving centers of Mahuaypampa, Accha Alta, Chahuaytiri and Sallac. Each of the 10 weaving associations affiliated with CTTC has agreed to certain standards in their weaving, so all the textiles are beautifully woven, using handspun or commercially spun wool or alpaca, all dyed with natural dyes and using the traditional designs of their ancestors. Some of these designs and techniques were close to being lost when Nilda Callañaupa started the center years ago. Her focus has always been to bring these designs back into use by the Andean weavers.

After 4 nights there, we headed to Cusco (11,000 ft) where the Abbitare Hotel was our home base for visits to the

textile centers of Pitumarca, Patabamba and the main center in Chinchero. I had visited many of these centers on my 2010 trip and I was thrilled to see how many of them had expanded and attracted more weavers. Our final day centered around the celebration of CTTC's Cusco Gallery and Store re-opening. It would take another 3 pages to describe that day. Suffice it to say that the celebration will not be forgotten by not only Nilda and the CCTC staff, the weavers but all the residents of Cusco as well.

You can well imagine how our group of textile enthusiasts arrived at each community, saw a selection of their textiles, and were ready to start shopping. But our main reason for these visits was to reconnect with each group of weavers, find out how they were affected by Covid, learn about their new weaving projects and techniques, and see how our funding had helped their efforts.

So, in most communities we first saw the weavers at work including the young weavers focusing on the specific designs they all had to learn by heart. Then we had a meeting with all the weavers, and the presidents of each association spoke as did the presidents of each young weavers' group. I was very impressed with not only the quality of their textiles but also the organization and involvement of all the weavers. In Chinchero, we asked the young weavers if any of them were on social media. This was their answer (photo below). I guess some things are just universal.

After the formalities we were finally allowed to purchase textiles, handspun yarn and other goodies. This made everyone very happy - weavers as well as shoppers. There's no way I can share everything I experienced on this trip - or all the wonderful photos and memories that I brought home with me. One solution would be to schedule a showing of TTPH for your guild or for some of you to go on one of their upcoming tours. Please feel free to contact me if you want more info about textile travel to Peru. (Continued on p. 4)





## Flagstaff Wool and Fiber Festival 2022

For the first time since 2019, the Four Corners Fiber Collective was able to host an in person Flagstaff Wool and Fiber Festival (June 4-5, 2022). I'm sure I wasn't alone in finding our Festival as much a reunion as a commencement of a new chapter, as this was the first in-person fiber festival I was able to attend in over three years. Many of us drank in the goings-on with renewed enthusiasm. How good it felt to be amongst friends after such a long and difficult hiatus!

The highlight for me this year was the vendors: becoming acquainted with talented artists and business people that share their offerings, many having traveled hundreds of miles to do so. I made a point of saying hello at as many booths as possible, and was especially thrilled to find vendors from the (local to me) Phoenix region.

For this festival, I was drawn to handmade tools and more esoteric materials. I'm in possession of a fine spool of silk thread from India the Phoenix Fiber Mill offered. After years of waiting, I finally was able to purchase square knitting needles. Apothofaery Luxury Fibers offered unique preps of linen for handspinning, my 'challenge fiber' for now.

*Continued on p. 5*



(left) Saying hello to vendors was rewarding, especially finding out this yarn dyer is our own Guild member Mary Rooney!



(above) A visit with Tempe-based and delightfully bawdy Bonnie Thomas of YankYourYarn was therapeutic on multiple levels: aromatherapy and snag-free stitch markers (some went home with me!) and other original notions as well as some great laughs made for a memorable visit.



(above) Host Four Corners booth.



## On the Trail for Textiles in Peru

(cont'd from p. 2)

ATA just announced that they have scheduled several tours for 2023. (<https://andeantextilearts.org/tours/>). These tours will visit both weaving centers and tourist sites like Machu Picchu. They are also expanding to Ecuador and Bolivia as well. I highly recommend their tours. ATA also offers an educational presentation on Textile Traditions of the Peruvian Highlands (TTPH) which is available for guild programs. (<https://andeantextilearts.org/outreach-education/>).

For more highlights on our trip, please see the blogs posted on the Andean Textile Arts page by Stefanie Berganini and Marilyn Murphy on their website's [Blog](#).

Please feel free to contact me if you want more info about textile travel to Peru.



--- Virginia Glenn ([vmatglenn@me.com](mailto:vmatglenn@me.com))

### Photos

P. 2: Gregorio in Pitumarca with his special weaving (one of Virginia's favorite purchases); young weavers from Chinchero; and Marilyn Murphy, ATA President, struggling to pick a textile at the weaving center in Patabamba.

P. 4: Young weavers from Mahuaypampa; variety and colors of textiles in progress



### Sewing Hand-woven Clothing!



In need of a coat this winter? This Vogue pattern (#8346) caught my eye as suitable for hand-woven fabric. I tested it out using a commercial woven wool and found it really straightforward and easy. After cutting out the pieces I serged the edges and then moved on to construction. The pattern is well-written and clear and I finished the coat in about 3 mornings (with help from the cats)! I plan on using the pattern with one of my handwoven fabrics now!



--- Mary Humme



## Flagstaff Wool and Fiber Festival

*Continued from p. 3*

What has stayed with me since the festival last June is the sense of community one experiences at in-person gatherings. The textiles world will only renew and grow with cornerstone events like these. Seeing the organizations that support fiber arts in the Four Corners area in action, meeting the good folks devoted to their fiber animals (Nancy Wilson of Camp Verde Llamas and Cunnington Farms of Moab come to mind), workshop and competition members, and volunteers working to create this experience made this event a stand-out. You could almost hear the collective whisper of “We are still here, producing and creating!” ripple amongst the excited attendees. It was good to be amongst friends again. Come to 2023’s festival June 3-4. Details at [www.flagwool.com](http://www.flagwool.com) --- *Lauren Goldfish*

*Additional photos below from Susan Bollinger*



Find us online: [azfed.org](http://azfed.org) and [facebook.com/groups/azfiberartsfederation](https://facebook.com/groups/azfiberartsfederation)

## Arizona Fiber Arts Guilds

**NOTE: Guild webpages, if applicable, are listed in full address form and linked here. In the interest of conserving space, Facebook groups are hyperlinked. If needed, search Facebook for your specific Guild group page.**

### NORTHERN ARIZONA

Fiber Artists of Northern Arizona (Flagstaff): <http://www.fiberartistsnaz.org> and [Facebook](#)  
Mountain Spinners and Weavers Guild (Prescott): <http://www.mtnspinweave.org/> and [Facebook](#)  
Twisted Threads Fiber Guild (White Mountains area): [Facebook](#).  
Verde Valley Spinners and Weavers Guild (Sedona): <https://verdevalleyweaversguild.com>

### CENTRAL ARIZONA

Arizona Desert Weavers and Spinners (Phoenix): <http://www.adwsg.org/> and [Facebook](#)  
Sun City Artistic Weavers and Fiber Arts (Sun City): <https://suncityaz.org/recreation/clubs/artistic-weavers-fiber-artists-club/>  
Telarana Weavers and Spinners Guild (E. Maricopa County): <http://www.telarana.org/> and [Facebook](#)  
Weavers West Guild (Sun City West): <http://weavers.scwclubs.com/> and [Facebook](#)

### SOUTHERN ARIZONA

Valley Fiber Art Guild (Sahuarita/Green Valley): <http://www.valleyfiberartguild.org/>  
Tucson Handweavers and Spinners Guild (Tucson): <http://www.thsg.org/> and [Facebook](#)  
Bisbee Fiber Arts Guild (currently unrepresented on Federation): <http://www.bisbeefiberarts.com/> and [Facebook](#)



## Federation Links

The Federation currently represent 11 fiber guilds across Arizona. Each guild pays annual dues to the Federation in the amount of \$1/active member per year, and selects a member from their guild to be a representative on the Federation. We use those dues and other contributions to support guild activities, including guest speakers, workshops, or traveling teachers. We offer grants to Guilds for these purposes, and to individuals for educational purposes that offset Guild costs. Grant applications are available on the Federation website ([www.azfed.org](http://www.azfed.org)).

Our website also hosts a forum for all Guild members to share news of upcoming fiber events, equipment for sale, and converse about fiber crafts. You can post, subscribe, unsubscribe, and contact the list administrator and moderator via email. To join our forum, e-mail [forum-join@lists.azfed.org](mailto:forum-join@lists.azfed.org) requesting a subscription to the list (no need to specify the subject or add text to your message). Use the e-mail [forum@lists.azfed.org](mailto:forum@lists.azfed.org) to post to the forum. To contact the forum administrator Ed Koharik or moderators, send an e-mail to [forum-owner@lists.azfed.org](mailto:forum-owner@lists.azfed.org). The forum has been a bit quiet lately, likely due to the diminished in-person Guild meetings during the pandemic. We want to see it more active; join and share your crafty ideas! In addition, we have started a new [Facebook group](#) (or search Arizona Fiber Arts Federation); there is already a wealth of posts sharing opportunities to attend both virtual and live workshops, demonstrations, and gatherings. Come join the fun and find out what's happening in our fiber world!