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# *Chimneyville Weavers and Spinners Guild* **NEWSLETTER**

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*February 1995*

## *January Program*

Marva called the January meeting to order and began by welcoming Pam and Ed Kreyling to their first meeting as CWSG members. Here's hoping we'll see them often!

With no formal program scheduled, the guild held its long awaited, somewhat delayed *cup exchange*. Each new presentation brought appreciative oohs and aahs. The projects, too numerous to be accounted for here, ranged from coasters to placemats to table runners to Hazel's basket. The general consensus was that this project was so much fun we'll do something similar again soon. Our regular show-and-tell featured entries for *Mississippi Rags*: Margaret's vest and large denim and flannel rug, Marcy's rug of Pendleton blanket cuts and purple (naturally!) ribbon scarf, Marva's fabric woven with rags from a border print, Sandi's vest and evening bag made of necktie strips, Jane's rug of upholstery fabric rags, Carol's purse with shoulder strap, Nancy's white coverlet (incredible!) and white and blue crib throw, and Kathy's Christmas stockings. Non-rag projects included Heather's plum colored ruana wrap of wool, silk, and mohair; Hazel's Choctaw basket; and Jane's dyed red and purple yarn. Jane also wore the knitted vest that won "best of show" at the Alabama Wool and Mohair Festival in Huntsville last fall.

*Several people asked Margaret what pattern she used in the table runner she made for the cup exchange. The answer: Johann D's design #2 from page 138 of Marguerite Davison's A Handweaver's Pattern Book.*

## *January Business Meeting Minutes*

**Minutes**--It was moved, seconded and voted to accept the minutes as printed in the January newsletter.

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### **1994-95 CWSG Board**

**Director:** Marva Goodman, 404 Parkway Rd.,  
Brandon, MS 39042; 992-0383

**Vice Director:** Lu Harding, 1715 Devine St.,  
Jackson, MS 39202; 355-8807(H), 968-  
5128(W)

**Secretary:** Carol Parks, 832 Cherry Stone Cir.,  
Clinton, MS 39056; 924-8605(H), 981-  
3100(W)

**Treasurer:** Heather Gillis, 507 Boardwalk  
Blvd., Ridgeland, MS 39157; 856-7850(H),  
939-9030x433(W)

**Historian:** Debbie Stringer, 2534 Crestleigh  
Manor, Jackson, MS 39204; 373-6292(H),

**Homer and the Jackson Zoo sweater**--Marva reported that Tina is still working on the sweater. She also read a thank-you letter from Barbara Barrett of the Jackson Zoo; the letter contained three family passes to the zoo, which the guild voted to give to Marva, Tina, and Pam and Ed Kreyling. The sweater brought less than \$100 at auction, a disappointment for everyone who worked so hard on it. Marva and Tina have discussed writing up an account of all the work and the hours that went into creating the sweater so that those running the auction and the successful bidder will have a better idea of its true value.

**Yearbook**--Most guild members should now have a copy of the yearbook. Check your listing for accuracy and notify Carol of any necessary changes.

**Mississippi Rags**--Sharon reported that the HGA awards have come in. At least \$300 in prize money will be given. The judge will arrive the Saturday before the show's opening, which is February 12. Sharon will keep us posted as plans for an opening party are completed.

**Constitution Revision**--A report from the Constitution Revision Committee is scheduled for the February meeting. Please direct any comments or suggestions you have on this subject to Nancy, Lu, or Sandi. *(Editor's note: A copy of the current constitution is included in this newsletter.)*

**Equipment Rental**--Debbie has gathered information from other guilds about their equipment rental procedure. She passed out copies of this information to the members present and asked for our written suggestions at the February meeting.

**Mississippi Historical Weaving Preservation Project**--Marva directed Nancy and her committee (Milti, Margaret, and Hazel) to come up with procedures for carrying out this documentation project.

**Project-oriented Study Group**--The study group meets the second Thursday of the month at 7:00 PM at Marcy Petrini's (950 Fairfax Cr., Jackson, MS 39211; 957-1423). Each month new topics are discussed, and attendance at previous sessions is not necessary. Come when you can. The only reminder is that this is a serious study group, and we do not spend two hours socializing. The next meeting will be February 9.

#### **Education Committee Report--**

The program committee has charged the education committee with the responsibility of finding out-of-town speakers for seminars and/or workshops. I think we should plan ahead. I requested names for potential speakers. The following two names have been suggested: Nancy Kahrs (cotton spinning) and Betty Smith (weaving). I had already contacted Nancy in the fall, and I have her resume, which has been circulated at the January meeting. I will contact Betty for hers. I don't see why we couldn't have both come during the next year or so, starting with Nancy.

Nancy Kahrs charges \$150 per day, plus travel; she also provides fibers and handouts for which she charges \$5 per student per day. I propose that we have Nancy come for a one-day (Saturday) workshop and charge each participant \$25 (in addition, each student will have to pay the fiber fee to Nancy). If there are enough interested (more than, say, 5 or 6), I also propose that we go ahead with the workshop and that the guild subsidize it if the workshop fees do not cover the cost. Nancy is willing to take as many as 20, but in our guild that is not likely. Of course, I am also open to other suggestions and possibilities.

The following questionnaire was passed out at the meeting. If you have not filled yours out, please send it to me as soon as possible but no later than **February 10**. I plan to contact our potential speaker (if there is enough interest), arrange for the visit, and report at the February meeting. If I don't obtain enough responses, I will assume that there is not enough interest.

Respectfully submitted,  
Marcy Petrini  
Chair, Education Committee

*(Editor's note: The "Cotton Spinning with Nancy Kahrs" response form is included in this newsletter, as is the weaving project form that Marcy designed.)*

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## **FOR SALE**

**Loom and other equipment:** 48" 8 H  
Tawakiva with tensioner, counter, spool rack,  
bobbins, lots of wool yarn. Sliding bench is in  
good condition. Will sell all or separately.  
Contact Tae Broad at 601/948-7285.

*Classified ads are run free of charge to CWSG members. The fee per ad for non-members is \$5 for three consecutive newsletters. Submit ads to the CWSG secretary/newsletter editor by the first of each month.*

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**Guild Scrapbook**--Marva, Lu, and Marcy brought newspaper, magazine, and newsletter clippings for the scrapbook. If you have items to contribute (photos, articles, etc.), please give them to Debbie.

**Studio Work Day**--After some discussion, it was moved, seconded, and voted to devote the afternoon following our March 18 guild meeting to work around the studio--cleaning the looms, cataloging library materials, etc.

**Guild Procedures**--Marcy submitted written procedures for Loom Crawl. Marva passed around a sign-up sheet for volunteers to write guidelines for the guild library (checking in, checking out), drum carder rental, gifts for outgoing directors, Sheep-to-Shawl, Pioneer Day, shows in general, and regular meetings.

**Potential Shows**--Nan Crosby of the Ridgeland library has asked if the guild would like to furnish a display for the library window for June and July. It was moved, seconded, and voted to do so.

Margaret has been scouting for places to have an informal show but has had no luck, due partly to a lack of interest in or knowledge of weaving among the people she has approached. Here's her story:

In cleaning out files the other day, I found a letter sent to us a couple of years ago from Vermillionville in Louisiana. It is a historic village similar to the Ag Museum. They had set aside the month of August to highlight old textile crafts and were asking guilds of Mississippi and Louisiana to participate in demonstrations for the entire month. Although this would be a nice weekend for us, it would not necessarily benefit our area. An idea came to me that we would benefit more as a guild to highlight old textile crafts (could include quilting and knitting) for a month at the Ag Museum.

If we could leave a dressed loom along with class and guild brochures in the main building, volunteers could sign up and weave for a day. Spinners could join them when possible.

Marva suggested that we might want to do this on weekends only. Since the loom would remain at the Ag Museum, those who are not employed outside the home might want to demonstrate during the week.

Marva and I also "tossed around" other possibilities:

1. Set up in the farmhouse. Other areas such as Pisgah Forest, NC, Mountain View, AR, and Shaker Village in Kentucky have someone demonstrating all summer in all areas of crafts. (In fact, some of these areas have salaried demonstrators whose crafts are sold on site.)
2. Plan demonstration weekends in conjunction with other activities at the Ag Museum such as the barbecue contest, "Hog Wild in July."
3. Plan demonstrations in conjunction with the blacksmiths' events.

I think we need to saturate the general public with textile crafts before some of these crafts die.

Respectfully submitted,  
Margaret Pittman

**Women Weaving the World Together**--The guild was given information about a project called "Women Weaving the World Together" to be displayed in conjunction with the World Women's Conference in Beijing in September 1995. Excerpts from the project flyer follow:

Women of the world, our lives interwoven in the global village, are planning to link our diverse herit to our common future with a woven ribbon. This ribbon will consist of thousands of pieces from every village and corner of the world and be taken to Beijing and stitched together. . . . Woven pieces should approximately one meter wide and of any length. They may be made of any fiber. . . .

### **Objectives**

- \* to create a symbol which expresses the unity of women the world over
- \* to create a ribbon to span the 20 km from the UN conference centre to the NGO Forum in Beijing
- \* to display weaving traditions and crafts carried out by women around the world
- \* to celebrate women's contributions to their countries
- \* to produce videos which show, through weaving, women's advancement in different countries
- \* to produce a book of the submissions for the ribbon and the stories behind their creation
- \* to raise US\$500,000 for a women's projects fund

In September 1995, tens of thousands of women will travel to Beijing, China, to review the status of women worldwide and to plan for women's future advancement. This will occur in two forums:

- 1) The UN Fourth World Conference on Women: Action for Equality, Development, Peace, 4-15 September 1995. . . .
- 2) NGO Forum 95, 31 August - 12 September 1995. . . .

NGO Forum 95 will run parallel to the Conference and will feature seminars, media showcases, workshops, panel discussions, exhibits and special events. One major event will be "Women Weaving the World Together."

The flyer urges those who participate to publicize, promote, and fundraise locally and gives updates on how the project is progressing in Cambodia, Thailand, and other parts of the world. The contact listed for this woven ribbon project is Khemara, "Women Weaving the World Together," National Road 5, Mittapheap Village, Russey Keo District, Phnom Penh, Cambodia. Tel/Fax: 855 23 60134 or via 855 23 26009.

Guild members at the January meeting moved, seconded, and voted not to participate as a group. Individuals who wish to contribute a woven piece are referred to the contact listed above. Carol has the complete flyer in her files for anyone who wishes to see it.

### **LETTER TO THE GUILD**

December 12, 1994

Dear Members,

Once again, you have been so very important to the success of the Chimneyville Festival, and we appreciate your hard work.

Your booth-sitting and other volunteer work on site is essential to our operations and certainly means a lot to the exhibiting membership. The tree you sponsored was absolutely beautiful--our show centerpiece, and it stimulated the sale of your angels to help with the grant match. Of course, you're the real angels in the story! Thanks for the time and effort that went into all those projects.

We hope that you have happy holidays and a great new year ahead. We will continue to treasure the association of the Chimneyville Weavers Guild and The Craftsmen's Guild.

Much love,

Linda Mann  
Executive Director

**Roc Day**--Plans are underway for the CWSG to host Roc Day '96. Marcy has written a short news release and will distribute it to various magazines/events calendars. Marva volunteered to be the contact person. The question now remains of where to hold Roc Day; Marva suggested either Allison's Wells or Roosevelt State Park, and she appointed an organizing committee consisting of herself, Marcy, Hazel, and Carol. In addition, Marcy proposed that we have T-shirts made for the event.

**Other Business**--The Memphis Guild of Handloom Weavers is sponsoring a workshop entitled "FIBRE/FABRIC/FASHION--The Evolution of a Handwoven Garment" on March 20-22, 1995. The instructor is Heather Winslow. This workshop covers warp planning, designing garments for handwoven yardage, construction techniques for handwoven garments, and innovative finishing (applying knitting and crocheting to garments). The cost is \$50, plus a \$10 supply fee. Because the Memphis guild is rather small, there may be a few vacancies left for this workshop. If you're interested, contact June B. Kramer at 2505 Clay Pond Dr., Oakland, TN 38060.

Marcy's mother donated a copy of the book *Mississippi Homespun* to the guild library.

Margaret reported that Virginia Rogers will be in town for a visit the weekend of our next meeting. Although Virginia will be busy Friday night and Saturday night, she should be able to see us Saturday for the meeting and lunch!

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#### **ADDITIONS AND CHANGES TO THE DIRECTORY**

*Add to the member list* Ginny Trainor, 700 E. Leake St., Clinton, MS 39056; 924-7324.

*Change* Carol Parks's work phone number to 981-3100 as of February 10.

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#### **ANNOUNCEMENT**

Philis Alvic, noted weaver, fiber artist, writer, teacher, and holder of the Handweavers Guild of America Certificate in Excellence, Master Level, will be teaching at Allison's Wells School of Arts and Crafts, April 9 through 14. For more information, call the School at 601/859-5826.

#### **PROGRAM NOTES**

**"WAY AHEAD" NOTICE:** The third Saturday in April is the day before Easter, so we'll change our meeting date to the fourth Saturday, April 22. \*\*\* Make this change on your calendar now. \*\*\* This meeting will be Sheep-to-Shawl. Sandi Tucker is the chairperson for the event and will announce the location later. (Call her if you have any ideas.)

If you plan to go to the **Mississippi Rags** opening on February 12, contact Marva about bringing food to celebrate afterwards at Sharon Williams's house.

For the **February 18 program**, Nancy Landrum will discuss **spinning** (a little) and **weaving linen**. She will share her personal experience and what she learned at the linen workshop at Convergence '94.

### *Report on Spin In from Lu, Heather, and Barbara:*

We drove to Destin, Florida, on Wednesday, January 25, and spent three wonderful days at Seascape Res attending the 9th annual Spin In. This reminded us of Roc Day with the fun and fellowship and learning opportunities just multiplied by three.

There were about 80 spinners and several vendors there. The shopping opportunities were plentiful--lots of books, any spinning supply you could think of, some weaving supplies, a few small looms, a few wheels, and fiber, fiber, fiber. . . . All three of us went over budget--not on the trip costs, but on the shopping opportunities.

We found everyone so willing to share. Every day had its Show and Tell. And if you had a problem or question, you could just ask and you would be pointed to the most knowledgeable expert in that area. So many of these people knew so much.

One of the things that impressed me so much was the youth of the spinners. Chronological age was from about 25 to 80-plus. But there were no 80-year-olds there. All the gray-haired spinners were obviously so young in spirit and at heart.

Attendees came from Florida, of course, and Mississippi and Alabama and Louisiana and Georgia and Texas--and Colorado and Oregon--and even from Sussex, England.

We spun a lot, learned a lot, shopped a lot, visited a lot, walked on the beach, enjoyed our nice condo, ate great seafood and Italian food, and arrived home Sunday afternoon in time to get Barbara off for her annual Super Bowl party. We even were blessed with great driving weather.

There were three representatives there from Dyed-in-the-Wool Guild on the Gulf Coast. Cheryl Reynolds, Helen Caire, and Bunny Oxley all send their hellos to all of you.

And we seriously urge all of you to think about going next time. The gorgeous beach itself is worth the trip--and then there is so much more. . . .

Lu



## JUST SPINNING

Anyone who missed the January meeting missed a **fantastic treat!** The projects done for the **Cup Exchange** were such a treat. There was an amazing variety-- from table runners and placemats to a basket-on-the-loom inspired by the design and colors in the cup. Thanks to all who participated in the activity.

Now, if you just didn't have time to lend to this project, you will have another chance. I think there is another project on the drawing board that everyone can work on this summer and bring back the completed piece in the fall.

We have made a good start on our project of writing up guild procedures. (We don't need to re-invent the wheel every year.) There are still a few areas that need someone to write down our procedures--such as the Chimneyville Christmas Tree, our involvement in the Chimneyville Craft show. We can discuss this at our February meeting.

Please look at our Constitution before the February meeting. We will be going over the first report of the revision committee. Make note of any area that you think needs attention.

There are some points that may need to be changed. This is something that we need to be careful in doing. Change may be very good--but let's don't do it lightly.

**ROC DAY** is also on my mind. We need a space large enough to comfortably hold **seventy-five** spinners with spinning wheels and five to ten vendors. The vendors have requested that they have plenty of room for shoppers and that they **be in the same room with the spinners**.

If you have a place to suggest, please let me know. Also, be thinking about goodie-bags.

Margaret Pittman said that former member Virginia Rogers will visit for our February meeting.

Barbara Mitchell suggest a salad lunch so that we will have more time to visit. Sounds great to me! If you can, just bring any kind of salad, and we'll all share. Hazel, our 'hostess with the mostest' will coordinate all the extras.

The invitation to **MISSISSIPPI RAGS** looks great. Sharon has done a wonderful job of getting this show together. We need to take food for a reception at her house after the 2-4 opening.

Please call me if you can bring a cookies or some kind of pick-up food.

We really should caravan to Senatobia Sunday. Call me if you plan to go. We'll arrange rides, time, and place to meet to leave.

Keep on spinning and weaving.

Marva

## Cotton Spinning with Nancy Kahrs

If you have not filled this in at the meeting, please do so now and return to Marcy Petrini, (950 Fairfax Cr. Jackson, MS 39211) no later than February 10, 1995.

I would be interested in this seminar/workshop: ☐ Yes ☐ No.

(If you answered yes, please complete the following)

I would be willing to pay (note fiber fee of \$5 per day is in addition):

- ☐ \$25/day
- ☐ \$30/day
- ☐ \$35/day
- ☐ whatever it takes
- ☐ other; please specify: \$ \_\_\_\_\_

I would prefer:

- ☐ all day Saturday program;
- ☐ all weekend program;
- ☐ no preference.

I would prefer:

- ☐ the same Saturday/weekend as our guild meeting;
- ☐ a different Saturday/weekend than our guild meeting.

I would prefer:

- ☐ I have no month preference;
- ☐ the following months (please list all that apply, including next fall):

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CWSG  
C/O CAROL PARKS  
832 CHERRY STONE CIR  
CLINTON MS 39056



Marcy Petrini  
950 Fairfax Cr.  
Jackson, MS 39211