

Chimneyville

Weavers & Spinners Guild

September 1996 newsletter

Calendar

Sept. 20

Spin-in

Deborah Levine's house
(please RSVP, 362-6694)

Sept. 21

Guild meeting

Program: Equipment
maintenance

Oct. 5-6

**Indigo Dye/Felting
Workshop by Jim Liles
and Dale Liles**

at Oak Mountain
Handcrafters in Oak
Mountain State Park. Cost
is \$90 (includes supply
fee). Limit 30 people. For
reservations call
1-800-ALA-PARK.

Oct. 11-13

"Weave a Coverlet"

Madelyn Van Der Hoogt
Huntsville Fiber Guild. A
few slots still available.

Call Susan Hawkins,
205-880-5862.

Nov. 1-3

**"Pushing the Plain
Out of Plain Weave"**

A workshop by Donna Lee
Sullivan in Ocala, Fla. Cost
\$100. The Creative Hand
Studio, 3675 NE 36th Ave.,
Unit B, Ocala, FL 34479;
352-629-2529.

Jan. 4, 1997

Roc Day
in New Orleans

We had a great time in the country

Our thanks to Nancy Landrum for inviting us to her country home near Meridian for a summer get-together. No business, no program—just a great turnout for lots of good food, fresh air and fiber talk. Marcy brought videos from Convergence—including the fashion show—that we enjoyed watching, and Marcy and Nancy both filled us in on what we missed at Convergence.

Next meeting is Sept. 21

Program: Marcy's husband, Terry (The Loom Doctor), will teach us about equipment maintenance at our next meeting, Sept. 21. Terry built Marcy's first loom, refinished her spinning wheel and has maintained the Craftsmen's Guild weaving studio for 15 years.

Dues due: At this meeting, we'll also renew our guild memberships for the coming year. Watch your mail for a membership renewal card; return it with your dues to Margaret Pittman (5875 Baxter Drive, Jackson, MS 39211) or bring it with you to the September meeting.

New Show-and-Tell format: We hope this new Show-and-Tell format will allow everyone a chance to participate. If you have an item for Show-and-Tell, share a brief description of 1) technique, 2) materials and 3) intended use of piece. Anyone wanting more info about your piece can ask after the meeting.

By-law changes: We'll vote on proposed changes for directives and by-laws. A copy of the changes is attached to this newsletter.

Don't forget your White Elephant!

Note from the president

by Kathy Cohron

Dear Friends: I hope you all have had an enjoyable summer. I've missed the sharing of our craft and that infectious energy I receive at our meetings. We have a very capable and enthusiastic board, and they are already working on workshops, programs and enrichment activities for our guild. The guild's success comes from each member, so don't forget to volunteer to help our committee chairs in whatever area is of interest to you. See you all soon!

Library notes

by Marva Lee Goodman

The CWSG library will be open prior to the regular September guild meeting. Items may then be checked out by guild members in good standing. We have a great new exercise video for members to use. Jane brought pictures of the Great \$Day Yarn Sale trip. These will be on display. Please look through your books and magazines for extra copies of materials that would be good additions to our library. All donations gladly accepted.

New study group format proposed

by Marcy Petrini, education chair

After talking to several people and looking at my own schedule, I think the first Thursday of each month may be the best day for our study group to meet, but I would like your input. We will continue to meet at my house, but the newsletter will announce any change in date or meeting place for the following month's study group. I am sure there will be some months that I will be out of town.

For sale

Harrisville loom: Like new, 36-inch loom. Good beginner loom. Call for price: Barbara Mitchell, Jackson, 601-362-4570.

Mohair fiber: Kathy Smith has sheared her registered angora goats and is offering kid and adult mohair for \$6.50 per pound (washed). Call Kathy at Willow Creek Farm, 601-854-6441.

Knitting class

Knitter Deborah Levine will teach a knitting class for any skill level in September. Call her at 601-362-6694 if you're interested.

Basket class

Marva Lee Goodman will offer a basket-weaving class beginning Sept. 11-Oct. 16. Cost will be \$10 per class. At least three different baskets will be taught with take-home instructions and materials for work not completed during class. Preparation and care of materials and dyeing basket materials will be covered. Class to meet at Marva's house (outside, weather permitting, at 404 Parkway Rd., Brandon) from 10 a.m. to 12 p.m. each Wednesday. You should attend the first session, but you may attend some later sessions and skip others. Call Marva at 601-992-0383 for info or to register.

Please read your newsletter for that latest information.

I am proposing a change in format to allow us to be more focused. I have consulted with several people, but I would like to hear everyone's opinion. **Please answer the questionnaire below**, and either bring it to the meeting or mail it to me (950 Fairfax Circle, Jackson, MS 39211). The decision will be made based on your answers.

The new format would be as follows: The group would choose a weaving structure to study for the year. We would design two warps: one for 4 shafts, one for 8, with enough length for all participants to weave a sample. We would put the two warps on my two table looms. Then the looms would circulate among study group participants. People would sign up for a specific month and return the loom at the following study group session, whether the sample has been woven or not.

Each participant would be responsible for choosing a different treadling (or color and weave effect), weaving it and discussing it at the next session—problems, what you would do different next time, etc. I would provide warp yarns; each person would provide her own weft yarns. Because people tend to beat narrow warps more, the width of each sample would be 15", and we would allow at least 15" per person in warp length.

Because the group will depend on the weaver for the monthly discussion, you would have to be a study group participant to weave on these looms. Others could come and join the discussion without having to sign up to weave, however. Also, since this would be a discussion about a specific weave, you would have to know enough about 8-shaft weaving if you were to sign up for that loom. There wouldn't be enough time to discuss multi-shaft weaving in general. We would discuss projects as we have been doing, as time would allow.

This is not my idea. Several guilds with whom I am familiar have study groups based on rotating looms. It makes the study groups more focused and is a good learning experience for those interested. Let me know what you think! Thank you!

Study Group Survey

Name: _____

I am:

- ☐ interested in participating in the study group.
- ☐ not interested in participating in the study group.
- ☐ interested in the study group only if we follow the format checked below.
- ☐ interested in the study group only if it meets at a time I can come.

I am interested in:

- ☐ the study group as it is now, discussing projects.
- ☐ the new proposed format, with rotating looms. Structure I would be interested in studying: _____
- ☐ Either format is OK.

Please choose one:

- ☐ I am interested in participating but cannot come the first Thursday. Days I can participate: _____
- ☐ I can participate on the first Thursday, but the following days would be better: _____
- ☐ The first Thursday is fine with me.

(Please note that I teach every Tuesday night. Wednesday nights are bad for me because I have a 7 a.m. conference Thursday morning for which I often have to prepare the night before. —MFP)

Mail form to Marcy Petrini, 950 Fairfax Cir., Jackson, MS 39211. Or bring to September meeting.

We have a new address

Make a note of Chimneyville Weavers and Spinners Guild's new address:

CWSG

PO Box 1152

Ridgeland, MS 39159

Please *do not* send newsletter submissions to this address. Send them directly to the editor, Debbie Stringer (see address in box on this page).

Member address/phone updates

Make these corrections in your records:

Sharon Williams

10573 Peyton Road

Coldwater, MS 38618

Amy Evans

3080 Richfield Drive

Colorado Springs, CO 80919

Carol Parks

Work phone: 362-3624

We're invited to demonstrate

by *Marva Goodman*

I have received invitations for spinners and weavers to demonstrate at two events that fall during Weaving and Spinning Week:

- **A Day in the Country**, Oct. 5 at Chapel of the Cross near Madison.
- **Herb Fair**, Oct. 12 at Porter's Creek Herb Farm; from Debbie Porter.

There has been no guild commitment for either event. Attendance can be an individual decision, or the guild can decide to make it an officially approved affair.

Marcy and Marva attend COE-W '96 judging

by *Marva Lee Goodman*

Marcy and I left Aug. 15, a bright summer day, to attend the judging for the Certificate of Excellence on Weaving 1996 in Cedar Falls, Iowa. The trip was to help us prepare for hosting this event in 1998. (We also squeezed in some work on guild policy updates and work on the by-laws while I drove and Marcy plugged her laptop into the car's power. My, these modern inventions! What will we have next!)

After driving some 820+ miles, we arrived in Cedar Falls to a wonderful reception by the Northeast Iowa Weavers and Spinners Guild. It was great fun to meet the Iowa weavers and spinners, to visit four studios and to inspect the Guild-owned building, which contained a teaching studio and sales shop!

A special treat was meeting HGA board members Karen Kitchen and Gloria Hall and judges Eleanor Best and Vicki Tardy. Out-of-town guests were hosted by local guild members. Marcy and I stayed with Carol Dhams, COE-W 1996 registrar. Her studio was in the basement of her house. So were Karen's and Patrice's studios—in the basements of *their* houses, that is. Basements are just part of housebuilding there. They are wonderful—lots of space for weaving and storing all that yarn and fleece and all the other stuff we tend to collect. We also visited Edith Hantula, who had Jacob and Lincoln sheep (we even brought home fleece).

It was a working trip and a fun trip, but more important, it gave us some of the information and insight we as a guild need to host a successful judging in 1998. The time will pass all too quickly, and we will use the information to be well prepared for this event.

Get ready for Convergence '98!

by *Marcy Petrini*

Things you can do to get ready:

- Buy a Convergence "Rhythms and Hues" pin for \$5.
- Buy a Convergence "Rhythms and Hues" t-shirt for \$15.
- Start saving now!

I will have my t-shirt and pin at the September meeting. I will be glad to pick up t-shirts and pins next time I go to Atlanta. Please include payment with your order. T-shirts come in S, M, L, XL in either purple or white. I will probably be going to Atlanta in October, so you can order at the September meeting.

It's going to be hot!

Convergence '96 t-shirts: If you ordered a Convergence '96 t-shirt, it's here. Please let me know how I can get it to you. The t-shirts are \$15 each. Please pay me, as I had to pay for them in order to pick them up. Thank you!

New from HGA

by *Marcy Petrini*

There are a few promotional items left over from Convergence '96, which I will be glad to bring back for you, while supply lasts.

Coverlet pins, designed by our very own Margaret Pittman, are \$5. They come in blue, purple, red and green. You need one of each color!

Mr. (or is it Ms.?) Shearson: an adorable lamb that can be sheared; \$20. No, you can't spin its coat, but it has a fuzzy, post-shearing coat under it. Makes great gifts for children of all ages! I will bring my examples for you to admire.

Place your order with payment at the September meeting, and I will be glad to bring items back from Atlanta.

Send newsletter items to the newsletter editor:

Debbie Stringer

2534 Crestleigh Manor

Jackson, MS 39204

home: 601-373-6292

office: 601-922-2341

e-mail: Metheniac@aol.com

fax (office): 601-922-9869

One of the treats we devoured during our summer get-together at Nancy Landrum's:

Mango-Tomatillo Salsa

Marva Lee Goodman

- 1 12-oz. can tomatillos, drained
- 1/2 C. pineapple juice
- 1/4 C. white vinegar
- 1 T. minced garlic
- 1 T. minced red or green chili pepper of your choice
- 1/2 C. chopped cilantro
- 2 T. cumin seeds
- 6 T. lime juice (about 3 limes)
- 3 ripe but firm mangoes, peeled, pitted and diced small
- 1 red onion, diced small
- 1 red bell pepper, diced small
- 1 green bell pepper, diced small

In a blender or food processor, puree the tomatillos, pineapple juice, vinegar, garlic, chilies, cilantro, cumin seeds (you might try processing these before adding other ingredients) and lime juice. Place mangoes, onions and bell peppers in medium bowl; add the puree and mix well.

This salsa will keep, covered and refrigerated, 4 to 5 days.

(Toast the cumin seed by placing them in a heated saute pan over medium heat. Watch carefully and shake frequently to avoid burning, until they just begin to release a little smoke—about 2-3 minutes. At this point you will also notice the seeds begin to turn darker brown, and if you look carefully, some of them will move around a bit as the steam is released.)

More recipes in future newsletters!

'96-'97 Committee chairs named

by Kathy Cohron

Thanks to every one who has worked on revamping our policies and compiling procedures for various projects, such as Pioneer Day and Sheep-to-Shawl. We have finally completed this task and will share the information with all. It's going to make being a chairperson so much easier when you have procedures guidelines that explain the event and how to conduct it.

Here are committee chairs for the coming CWSG year:

- Hospitality & refreshments: Melba Nipper
- Exhibits: Barbara Mitchell
- Library: Marva Lee Goodman
- Newsletter: Debbie Stringer
- Publicity: Debbie Stringer
- Education: Marcy Petrini
- Community service: Deborah Levine
- Ways & means: Margaret Pittman

Special-event chairs

- Pioneer Day, Oct. 26: Carol Parks
- Loom Crawl, Dec.: Hazel Howell
- Chimneyville Crafts Festival, Dec. 6-8: Kathy Smith
- Sheep-to-shawl, April or May: Deborah Levine

'96-'97 CWSG board

- President: Kathy Cohron
- Vice president: Nancy Landrum
- Treasurer: Margaret Pittman
- Secretary: Sandy Tucker
- Historian: Marva Lee Goodman

Birmingham guild to host '97 Southeast Fiber Forum

"Southern Alternatives" is the theme of the 1997 Southeast Fiber Forum, set for April 3-6 in Birmingham, Ala. The forum, hosted by The Greater Birmingham Fiber Guild, will explore alternatives from traditional to eclectic, fundamental to complex.

Marcy Petrini (*go girl!*) and Madelyn Van Der Hoogt are among scheduled artists representing many fiber fields: spinning, weaving, quilting, knitting, basketry, embellishment and dyeing.

The forum will comprise seminars, one- and two-day workshops, commercial vendors, demonstrations and displays, fashion shows, door prizes and a spin-in.

For more information, contact Jonnie Venglik, 3531 Rocky Ridge Road, #101, Birmingham, AL 35243, or call 205-822-5855.

Texas handweavers to host conference

The Contemporary Handweavers of Texas' biennial conference, "Weaving a Life Texas Style," will be held May 30-June 1, 1997 at the Hilton Hotel/Conference Center, College Station, Texas.

Ann Matlock will deliver keynote speech and lead pre-conference workshops on Intro to Warp Brocade Tapestry and Design and Spinning Luxury Fibers. Other workshops include Beth Beede on Felting; Nancy Kahrs on Cotton Spinning; Charlotte Allison on Beaded Amulet Necklace; and Scott Gilbert on White Oak Baskets.

Linda Ligon will judge members' exhibits, fashion show and present awards at banquet. Seminars will be conducted on spinning for projects, triaxial weaving, Acadian textiles, spindle spinning and plying, silk fibers, block weaves, Hill Country natural dyes and fibers, clothing construction from handwoven fabric, and much more. Tours include Texas A&M wool and cotton labs, Brentex Mills, more.

For more information send LSASE to Gika Rector, 8 East Wedgewood Glen, The Woodlands, TX 77381.

Those were the days . . .

In pre-colonial West Africa, long, narrow strips of handwoven cloth (plain, undyed and of standard widths and lengths) were used as currency in payment for goods and services. The recipient socked it away (a savings account?) or used it to buy other goods. The farther the cloth travelled from its place of origin, the more valuable it became.

—from *The Art of the Loom: Weaving, Spinning and Dyeing Across the World*
by Ann Hecht

Proposed Changes for Directives and By-Laws

I move that the Ad Hoc Procedure Committee be empowered to change the grammar, spelling, punctuation and inconsistencies of the Directives and the By-Laws, provided that no changes are made in intent.

—Marcy Petrini

Other proposed changes follow. These can either be accepted and voted in two groups (Directives and then By-Laws), or as individual articles and sections, at the discretion of the membership.

Please read these carefully and be prepared to discuss them and vote on them at the September 1996 meeting.

DIRECTIVES

Article III. The object of this organization shall be to further interest and provide educational support in handweaving and spinning, and to raise the public level of awareness of these crafts.

Explanation: Dyeing was removed from the list (leaving weaving and spinning) because it is an activity associated either with weaving or spinning; when done in isolation, it is surface design, which is another discipline with its own organization.

Article IV. The organization shall have voting members, as defined in the organization's By-Laws.

Explanation: The information in the current Directives belongs in the By-Laws and it has been moved there.

Article V. The affairs, activities and properties of this organization shall be managed by a Board of Directors which is composed of members of the organization.

Explanation: The changes are: 1) activities and properties have been added to affairs; this is standard; 2) the list of officers who comprise the Board of Directors are listed in the By-Laws, not in the Directives, and thus have been removed from here. Furthermore, the list in the current Directives disagrees with the list in the current By-Laws which brings out the very reason why there should be no duplication between the two documents.

BY-LAWS

Membership

Section 1. The terms of membership are:

a) Membership is open to anyone with an active interest in handweaving and handspinning, regardless of age, gender, color and creed.

b) A family membership is available to people living at the same address, paying the same fee as an individual member, and receiving one newsletter and the right of one vote.

Explanation: The changes are: 1) This has been combined with the information in the Directives. 2) The addition of demographics is standard. 3) Dyeing was removed from the list (leaving weaving and spinning) because it is an activity associated either with weaving or spinning; when done in isolation, it is surface design, which is another discipline with its own organization. 4) The (b) portion would make it "legal" for children of our members

to participate in Guild activities and be listed in the directory; both spouses could be members.

Section 2. The terms of admission are payment of the annual dues and completion of a membership form.

Explanation: Our Guild has never required submission of membership and approval by the Board, as specified in both the By-Laws and the Directives.

Sections 5 a and b should be eliminated.

Explanation: These sections deal with the terms of transfer and reinstatement of membership, which are meaningless since there is no application and acceptance of membership.

Officers and Elections

Section 1: The officers of this organization shall be a President, Vice President, Secretary, Treasurer, Historian, and Past President. These officers, to be elected from the membership at large, shall constitute the Board. The term of office for each officer is two years. Officers are elected in alternate years: the President and Vice President in odd number years; the Secretary, Treasurer and Historian in even numbered years; and the Past President, ex-officio, in odd years.

Explanation: This reflects the changes that have been made in the last few years.

Section 2. A Nominating Committee of two members shall be appointed by the President in March. This committee shall present nominations to the members in the April newsletter and at the regular meeting in April, for the officers to be elected. At this time, nominations, duly seconded, will be accepted from the floor. All nominations must have the prior consent of the nominee. Elections shall be held during the regular April meeting during which absentee ballots shall also be counted.

Explanation: Changes include: 1) Combine material from current directives with by-laws. 2) Reflect current procedures.

Section 3: All officers elected at the regular meeting in April shall take office at the close of the meeting in May and shall hold office for two years or until their successors are elected and qualified.

Explanation: Changes to reflect the two-year terms.

Duties of Officers

Section 1. The President shall preside at all meetings of the organization and the Board, appoint all committee chairs, and be an ex-officio member of all committees except the nominating committee, and shall exercise a general supervision over all the affairs of the organization. It is understood that such projects as have been initiated by a retiring President and her committees shall be supervised by the new President to their completion.

Explanation: Only change is that President doesn't appoint all committees, as specified by the current By-Laws, but only the chairs who, in turn, appoint their committees. This is generally what is been done.

Continued on back

Section 3. The Secretary shall have charge of the general correspondence of the organization. She shall keep a record of the minutes of each meeting of the Board and the general membership. These minutes shall be published in the newsletter and distributed to all members prior to the next monthly meeting. [*Rest unchanged*].

Explanation: The old wording was "These minutes shall be published in the form of a newsletter to all members..." The newsletter is now more than the minutes, and the word "distributed" was missing.

Section 4. [*Up to here unchanged*] The Treasurer's books may be audited by a committee consisting of the President and two additional members not currently serving on the Board. A report of any audit shall be made to the membership. The Treasurer shall also be Ways and Means Committee Chair and shall be an ex-officio member of any committee that either receives or distributes funds.

Explanation: The changes reflect: 1) Audit committee as it is described is not standard. 2) Audit report should be made to entire membership. 3) Treasurer being ex-officio member of committees handling money is the current practice, but not written down.

Section 5. [*Up to here unchanged*] The Historian shall be responsible for the Guild library by either serving as a Librarian or by overseeing one.

Explanation: The Librarian is listed under the "Duties of Officers," but nowhere is she mentioned as an officer. The library is listed under committees. This structure is a potential solution.

Section 6, the first of two (Librarian). Move to section on committees.

Explanation: The Librarian is not listed as an officer, and thus this section doesn't belong under officer.

Dues

Section 2. Dues are payable by the September meeting and become delinquent October 1. A member whose dues become delinquent will be dropped from membership and will no longer receive the Guild newsletter.

Explanation: The Guild Directory is listed elsewhere as being published in October. Making the dues delinquent before the Guild Directory is published, rather than after, assures the most complete and up-to-date directory as possible.

Section 3. Notices of membership fees being due shall be mailed in August.

Explanation: This time frame will give members two months to pay dues before they become delinquent.

Committees

Section 1. There shall be standing committees as follows: Newsletter; Exhibits; Community Service; Publicity; Education; Hospitality; Library; and Ways and Means. The Newsletter Committee is the responsibility of the Secretary; the Library Committee is the responsibility of the Historian; the Ways and Means Committee is the responsibility of the Treasurer. All other committees are the responsibility of the President.

Explanation: The committee responsibilities have been implied, but not spelled out.

Section 2. The standing committee chairs shall be appointed by the President with the approval of the Board.

Explanation: The current procedure is for the chair to be appointed by the President, not the entire committee.

Section 3. Chairs of the standing committees shall prepare three (3) copies of annual reports to be submitted to the Board meeting in April: one copy for the President, one copy for the permanent records kept by the Secretary, and one copy for the Procedure Notebook in the Library. In the event that the work of the committee is not completed in April, the report shall be due immediately upon completion.

Explanation: A third copy for the Procedure Notebook has been added, since the membership does not usually see each report and it would be helpful for a future Chair to learn what has been done in the past.

Section 4. Ad hoc committee chair shall be appointed by the President according to need. The duration of these committees shall be no longer than the time necessary to complete and report on their assignments.

Explanation: See explanation of Section 2 above.

Section 5. The Librarian shall maintain the Guild Library and be in charge of issuing and re-collecting all library materials. She shall notify members of overdue items and of any fines due. She shall collect any charges and fines and turn them over to the Treasurer.

Explanation: The only change here is that this has been moved from officers to committees. See explanation above (Section 6 of Duties of Officers).

Amendments

Section 2. Moved under Membership.

Explanation: Since we are voting on the entire by-laws, we may as well have it reorganized in a logical order.

Section 3. Moved under Funds.

Explanation: See immediately above.



Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi, Inc.

1150 Lakeland Drive
Jackson, MS 39216
(601) 981-0019

Mississippi Crafts Center
on the Natchez Trace Parkway
Box 69
Ridgeland, MS 39158
(601) 856-7548

Chimneyville Crafts Gallery
Agriculture and Forestry Museum
1150 Lakeland Drive
Jackson, MS 39216
(601) 981-2499

August 16, 1996

Dear Members of the Chimneyville Spinners & Weavers Guild:

The Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi needs people in every corner of Mississippi to contact their individual state senators and representatives in support of a bill to construct a grand new Crafts Center near Madison on the Natchez Trace Parkway. The facilities will be available to your Chimneyville Guild: classroom, auditorium, exhibit, meeting, and demonstration space.

According to the Mississippi Department of Economic Development, it could attract 100,000 visitors a year and generate \$8.5 million in new tourist spending annually. It would be funded by state bonds and would soon pay for itself in the state sales and income tax (from sales of members living all around the state) it would generate. Also the bill includes a provision that the Center pay a percentage of its profits to the state.

You need the economic impact information to persuade the legislators that the project is a monetary benefit to the whole state as well as a cultural resource and an image enhancer for Mississippi.

We know that legislators respond best to the people who vote directly for them. You can find your district and your senator and representative and their addresses and phones by calling your local circuit clerk. When the legislature is in session, you can call the Senate and House of Representatives at (601) 359-3770 and leave a message for your legislators. If you can vote for 'em, you are GUARANTEED to get a call back. We need your support before the session too, so a letter or call to their home or office now is in order.

Call me at work (856-7546) or home (362-4756) for more details. If you know people in the state who could or would help, let me know or contact them yourselves. We need constituents to support the Crafts Center Bill to EVERY state legislator.

Thank you for your invaluable help in this as well as in many other Craftsmen's Guild projects.

Sincerely,

Martha

Martha Garrott, Director
Mississippi Crafts Center