

**CWSG**

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**Submit newsletter items to:**

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**CALENDAR****Oct. 9****Study group**

at Marcy Petrini's. Coffee at 6:30 p.m., study at 7 p.m.

**Oct. 11****Tennessee Fiber Festival**

at Nolensville Recreation Center, Nolensville, Tenn. Fiber-related demos and workshops; fiber animals. Free admission. Call 615-776-2190.

**Oct. 22****Spinning Study Group: Silk Noil**

at Oak Mountain Handcrafters, Pelham, Ala.; 205-621-1484; e-mail Oakmtnhand@aol.com.

**Oct. 24-26****Overshot in the 90s: Colonial to Sante Fe**

workshop with Ingrid Boesel, hosted by Chattahoochee Handweavers Guild (Ga.). \$85 for non-members. Call Pam Howard, 770-479-9160.

**Nov. 8-9****Southeastern Alpaca Fall Fest**

at Georgia International Horse Park, Conyers, Ga. Animal sales, vendors, shows, demos, workshops, more. Admission is \$5 adults, \$3 children 12 and under. Sponsored by South-

*continued*

# Chimneyville

## Weavers & Spinners Guild

October 1997 newsletter

**No October meeting; see you at Pioneer Festival**

At the September meeting we decided not to have a meeting in October, due to conflict with the two-day Pioneer & Indian Festival, for which we demonstrate the second day.

So here's the plan: We will demonstrate spinning and weaving Saturday, Oct. 25, during the festival at the Crafts Center on the Natchez Trace (Ridgeland). The festival opens at 10 a.m. and closes at 5 p.m. Marva Goodman is chairing our participation in the festival; please let her know whether you will attend and what you will demonstrate.

On Friday, Oct. 24, Marva will lead hands-on fiber workshops at the festival, as part of its new Heritage Sampler attractions for children and adults. Call Marva if you want to volunteer to help.

**September meeting minutes**

by Jane Dollar

Our program was given by those of us who were there. Marcy asked us to think about what our guild will be when it grows up. It will be 20 years old in three years—just in time for the 21st century!

Summary of results:

1. We all seem to want a building of our own, with a meeting room, classroom, retail shop, yarn shop, textile museum, and gallery.

2. Classes/workshops/seminars: Our education chair (thank you, Becki Jefferis!) will handle these. Michelle

Belson will send dates for her workshop on warping. Price as yet unestablished. Supplies will be \$55-\$65 for a warping kit. (There will be an update in the newsletter.)

3. Programs with other guilds: Sharon Williams is checking into a meeting with the Memphis guild.

4. Guild trip to a craft school: Postponed for further consideration.

5. Guild computer: Marcy said she would be willing to donate her old one when she gets her new one. There was some discussion of updating old computers.

6. Public education: The suggestion was made to have booths at craft shows. We do Sheep-to-Shawl and Pioneer Festival at the Trace; Melba Nipper is looking into demonstrating at the Miss. State Fair, and Debbie Stringer will update our flyer to distribute when we demonstrate (demonstrators will make their own copies to distribute). Debbie will add anyone we request (local newspapers, etc.) to the guild's press release list.

7. Expand collection of equipment: Margaret Pittman pointed out that we will need more space if we get more equipment. She's storing the guild's rental equipment, and she's running out of room! Marcy volunteered an extra table loom and will store it also.

**'97-'98 CWSG board**

- **President:** Marcy Petrini, 957-1423
- **Vice president:** Sharon Williams, 233-2990
- **Treasurer:** Margaret Pittman, 956-1478
- **Secretary:** Jane Dollar, 323-7079
- **Historian:** Marva Lee Goodman, 992-0383
- **Ex-officio member:** Kathy Cohron, 856-6698

## Calendar, continued

eastern Alpaca Assoc. Call Juanita or Bill Crane, co-chairs, 706-265-7328.

**Nov. 14-15**

### Workshop:

#### Ya Gotta Be Warped to Weave

with Michele Belson of The Lunatic Fringe. Hosted by New Orleans Weavers Guild.

**Nov. 15**

### CWSG meeting

### January

Michele Belson workshop at CWSG. Details to come.

**Jan. 10**

### Roc Day

in Baton Rouge with Bayou Yarn Benders. Details in this newsletter.

**Jan. 21-25**

### 10th January Spin-in

at Destin, Fla.; \$10 registration due by Dec. 15. Call Nancy Kahrs, 850-897-5011.

**Feb. 7-8**

### Spinning Workshop

with Rita Buchanan, hosted by New Orleans Weavers Guild. Contact Jackie Schweitzer, 504-764-8094, or Maureen Preau, 504-482-3546.

## Directory update

Please update your membership directory with this information:

### New member

Holly Redford  
1003 Arlington St.  
Clinton MS 39056

*Welcome, Holly!*

8. More books in the library: Suggestion to allocate \$200 from general fund for library books. Will vote on at next meeting (see motion in this newsletter).
9. Yarn co-op: For buying yarn in bulk and yarn not available except to wholesalers. This would involve much and is impracticable at present.
10. Group exchange: In the planning stage.

### Business meeting

Marcy Petrini called the meeting to order. The minutes from the previous meeting were in the newsletter.

Marva Goodman told us about plans for the Pioneer and Indian Festival Heritage Samplers, Oct. 24-25. She will handle sampler events Oct. 24.

Marcy made sure we filled out the opinion survey and the membership questionnaire. Opinion survey results are in this newsletter.

There will be an item about the HGA Fiber Trust membership in this newsletter. It will be discussed and voted on at the next meeting.

If you have ideas or requests for future programs, get them to Sharon Williams.

The October study group will be postponed until Oct. 9.

There will be no spin-in or regular October meeting due to the two-day Pioneer Festival. Voting on motions will be done in November.

Linda Gayle Smith brought some Trexel wool and copies of the article in Spin Off for those interested. (Yes, thank you *very* much. I got my "three bags full!")

Nancy Landrum requested that someone learn woodburning as a decorative technique so we can all decorate our spinning wheels!

Marcy showed off the Tassel Award she won at Weave-In in New Orleans.

The meeting was adjourned in favor of the white (sorry, girls, I still like pink!) elephant sale and lunch at India Palace.

### Show and tell

Our show-and-tell table held these treasures:

Space-dyed silk and rayon yarns by Sharon Williams; Texel wool for spinning by Linda Gayle Smith; painted warp scarf by Kathy Cohron; Bronson weave scarf of wool and silk spun at Celia Quinn workshop, handspun angora baby cap and knit scarf, all by Marva Goodman; a sari displayed by Marcy Petrini; knitted felted hat and crocheted/dyed nylon bag by Jane Dollar; fiber-related books displayed by Debbie Stringer; weaving sampler woven by children and others at last year's Sheep to Shawl, displayed by Nancy Landrum; two double-bind rag rugs of dyed jeans by Hazel Howell; Steinbeck scarf and M & O towels by Nancy Landrum.

### From the president

## The value of our work

*by Marcy Petrini*

Be more visible in the community. Educate the public. Have more demonstrations. These are ideas that appeared in our guild planning but are issues that I have heard all around the country, problems that every guild struggles with. The survival of our very crafts depends on them. I used to believe that if only we worked a little bit harder at this, we would ultimately succeed. I have come to believe, just in the last month, that the problem is bigger than that.

What made me change my mind is reflecting on what Beverly Madere said at Weave-In. Beverly is studying to be an anthropologist, and her special focus is why

### *through the grapevine...*

Elizabeth Lewis will demonstrate Oct. 11 at "A Day in the Country" at Country Charm Antiques and Museum in Eudora. It's a benefit for Sunrise Home.

Margaret Pittman will have a booth of her work at the "From the Heart" crafts show, to be held Nov. 15, 9:30 a.m. until 3 p.m., at the Reservoir Fire Station/Community Room. Her booth will include string angels, Christmas tassels and Victorian pins. Margaret invites CWSG members to drop by after the Nov. 15 Guild meeting.

## For sale

**Spinning wheel:** Ashford Traditional scotch tension spinning wheel, five years old. Includes many bobbins and lazy kate. \$150. Contact Heather Gillis at home, 601-264-6263; at work, 1-800-821-7399 (Miss.) or 1-800-321-8750 (WATS).

## Dealers

(CWSG members)

### Melba Nipper

Ashford & LeClerc equipment; yarns; fiber; 601-825-3749.

### Linda Gayle Smith

Schacht equipment; 601-426-2264.

## Thank you!

Thanks to all who filled out the pink membership info questionnaire. This information will be used in compiling the Guild's directory. Those who haven't completed a questionnaire will have only the information on the dues card included in the directory (provided they returned the card with dues).

— Marcy

## Correction

Nancy Kahr's phone number was incorrect in the CWSG September newsletter. Her phone number is 850-897-5011. Nancy is the contact for Spin-in in Destin, Jan. 21-25.

our crafts are not valued more by society. *Value*. That's the key. I have come to the conclusion that the reason society doesn't value us and our work more is because we don't value our own time and work.

Before you say "hogwash" and move on to other parts of this newsletter, consider the following, all of which I have come across, not necessarily in Mississippi. Names and items have been omitted or changed to protect the not-so-innocent parties:

"I am going to sell those items for the cost of the yarns. All I want to do is recoup the costs of my materials."

"I can't believe so-and-so is selling that item for X; I could make it for one-third that."

"I found a really easy pattern for Y. I can make the items quickly and sell them."

"I have adapted that pattern." The adaptation? Three more inches in length.

"I have been inspired by that pattern, so I made it." The "inspiration" resulted in the identical item in different colors.

"I am sending you a copy of this drafting program I bought. I think you will find it useful."

"Your class notes are really good. I am going to use them to teach my classes."

"I bought a knitting pattern. Would you like a copy?"

What these remarks have in common is a disregard for the value of our own time and for that of others. Sure, I can see something and make it for a third of what the person is selling it — if I don't count my time and I don't value the time that it took the artisan to develop the item. Once you see the item, all the hard work has been done!

When we use the work of others without giving credit, we are not only devaluing their work, but we are showing lack of value for ourselves, our creativity, our artistry, our time. The problem has gotten so widespread that magazines now put disclaimers that the items shown are for the enjoyment of the readers, and pattern designers boldly say that if the buyer will sell items made from the patterns, they expect payment per item. There has been at least one case in the courts of someone selling the work copied from someone else. The designer won.

Does that mean that we should never do what others do? Of course not. We all make towels, even though there are several weavers in the Craftsmen's Guild who sell them. And I wouldn't have any reluctance in weaving overshot, even though Margaret Pittman is a local authority. But trying to sell overshot wall hangings with color gradations would show a lack of respect for Margaret's work and a lack of value on the copier's part.

There are lots of gray areas, I know. The best analogy may come from the world of art. Lots of art work is copied during studying. But I can't imagine anyone copying a Picasso painting and trying to pass it for her own work, even with the colors changed!

And it's okay to copy, as long as we realize what we are doing, we give credit to the originator, and we don't try to sell it for our own work. It's a matter of integrity. But as long as we ourselves don't begin to value ourselves, we can't expect others to value our work either.

## Results of member opinion survey

by Marcy Petrini

Thank you to those who took the time to express their opinions; 17 of us did. The wishes of the majority appear in the form of motions in "Motions for November meeting" (below). In the expediency of time, I asked Marva to make all the motions and Debbie Stringer to second them; please remember that making or seconding a motion does not imply agreement with the motion, only that agreement to discuss and vote on the issue.

All of the majority votes were of a 2:1 ratio, except the Guild directory, which was a bit closer. Of the majority of those wanting to expand the directory, all chose

to include crafts practiced, and retailers and teachers. Only a small number wanted equipment listed. The majority wants to have the Guild pay for the directory; this is the status quo, so no vote is required on this issue.

I would like to explain a bit about what it means for an event to be a guild event (there was at least one person who said she was confused). This is the way we used to do it: we set up a break-even point for an anticipated number of participants, say 10. If nine signed up, the Guild lost a bit of money, but we still had the workshop and the fees didn't change. If 11 signed up, the Guild made a bit of profit.

This is in contrast to the way we have done a couple of workshops recently: the total cost was divided among those participating. If some of those who said they would participate didn't, then everyone owed more money. Of course, workshops are not offered for one or two people; the membership is polled, so if enough interest doesn't exist, that particular workshop is not offered.

Please note that we will vote on the motions (below) at the Nov. 15 meeting.

## **Motions for November meeting**

- Moved by Marva Lee Goodman and seconded by Debbie Stringer that the Chimneyville Weavers and Spinners Guild join the HGA Fiber Trust at the donor level (\$100).
- Moved by Marva Lee Goodman and seconded by Debbie Stringer that seminars, workshops and the annual Retreat be sponsored by the Chimneyville Weavers and Spinners Guild, with participants paying a fee with the intent to recover all costs.
- Moved by Marva Lee Goodman and seconded by Debbie Stringer that the Chimneyville Weavers and Spinners Guild directory be expanded to include crafts practiced by members, and note those who are teachers or retailers.
- Moved by Marva Lee Goodman and seconded by Debbie Stringer that the donations from the raffle of the Sheep-to-Shawl shawl go toward the library fund.

## **CWSG committee assignments**

These members have agreed to serve on the following committees:

- Community Services: Melba Nipper
- Education: Becki Jefferis, chair, and Hazel Howell
- Exhibit: Nancy Olson and Joan Cotter
- Hospitality: Yvette DeLeeuw
- Library: Marva Goodman
- Membership: Carolyn Nichols
- Newsletter: Debbie Stringer
- Publicity: Debbie Stringer
- Ways and Means: Margaret Pittman

### **Yearly Activity Committees**

- Pioneer Festival: Marva Goodman
- Loom Crawl: Holly Redford
- Sheep to Shawl: Rosina Echols

## **Roc Day '98 set for Jan. 10**

Bayou Yarn Benders invite you to help celebrate the 25th year of Roc Day on Saturday, Jan. 10, at the Fraternal Order of Police Hall (10777 Greenwell Springs Rd., Baton Rouge, La.). Hours are 10 a.m. until 4 p.m. A \$20 fee includes registration and lunch. Deadline for registration is Dec. 10; no refunds after Dec. 15.

To register, send your name and address, along with a check payable to Bayou Yarn Benders, to: 9326 Cal Road, Baton Rouge, LA 70809-3051. For more info call 504-293-1416.