

CWSG

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CALENDAR**May 7****Study group****May 9****Sewing day**

for Convergence pouches. See
Marcy for details.

May 15**Spin-in**

at Kathy Cohron's house.

May 16

**CWSG meeting &
Convergence pouch
sewing day**

May 27-31

**Third Annual SWIC
Spinning Retreat**

sponsored by Spinners &
Weavers of Imperial Calcasieu.

June 13**CSWG Fund Raiser**

Yarn and equipment sale; raffle
(tickets in this newsletter);
porch of Chimneyville Crafts
Gallery.

July 23-26**Convergence '98**

at Westin Peachtree Plaza
Hotel, Atlanta.

continued

Chimneyville

Weavers & Spinners Guild

May 1998 newsletter

Learn to crochet with rags at our next meeting

Marcy Petrini will lead a program on crocheting rugs with fabric strips at our next meeting, May 16 at the Ag Museum. Bring a large crochet hook (10mm or larger, depending on size of strips), 1- to 3-inch strips of washable fabric (old sheets are good), and a pair of scissors. We'll have printed instructions—and lots of fun! Don't forget your white elephant, too.

April meeting minutes

by Jane Dollar

Marcy opened our meeting; Marva moved the minutes be accepted, Rosina seconded, and the motion passed.

The motions to subscribe to *Weavers*, *Spin-Off* and *Handwoven* all passed. Money to do so will come from library funds and will be budgeted each year after this.

The motion to donate 10% of the proceeds from the June 13th Guild sale to the Guild passed.

Lu reported on the trip to Memphis—"We had the best time!" Marva, Marcy and Lu

ate, knitted at Sharon's and spent Sat. night with Elizabeth before going on to the show, which was held at the Cordova Winery. There were lots of exhibits, past as well as present. After looking at the show, I hear they sampled the wine. And then went to the Hobby Lobby for large crochet hooks (next month's program) and Marcy bought *all* the purple and black rayon chenille!

It was decided that in case of rain (!) Sheep-to Shawl would be canceled and those of us who wished would just spin in the weaving studio. As it turned out, the sheep got sheared anyway because they were dry and it had to be done, and we actually did have some visitors, who got to see weaving and spinning, if not the whole process. Suggestion was made that the Army Nat'l Guard will do a tent if asked in advance, so maybe next year? Nancy Landrum gave some impressions she had gotten at a Sheep-to-Shawl in Savannah where people paid for admittance.

And Nancy thanked Barbara for spinning at her cabin day.

Rosina gave a raffle tickets update. And it's not too late to send them in to Margaret!

Marva gave an update on the library. So far there have been no returns of the missing books. Also, on Sundays Michael's ad has coupons; Marva

'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

Sept. 5
CWSG fiber show opens

Sept. 12
Weave-In
in New Orleans.

Oct. 17-18
"Sheer Delight"

Transparency workshop with Doramay Keasbey. Workshop fee is \$90. Contact Maureen Preau, 850 Lemoyne St., New Orleans, LA 70124; 504-482-3546.

Library book donated

Thanks go to Nancy Landrum for her donation of a rug book to the library. It is "Rugs" by Mary E. Johnson. It includes discussions of lots of different construction methods for rugs: hooked, applique, painted, braided, and needlepoint, as well as woven rugs. It is ready for you to check out. Use your library!

—Marva Goodman

Another good read

Look for "Newton's Cannon" by J. Gregory Keyes. Should be out May 1. Take my word for it, it's great.

Greg has been contracted to write the first three original "Babylon 5" novels. The first will be out in October.

—Nancy Landrum,
Greg's proud mother

needs coupons and people to buy materials for the library.

Marcy updated us on our new/old computer; the table sags, so Terry bought a typing table to use also. And a surge protector. (We need to reimburse him.)

The May spin-in will be at Kathy Cohron's house. Thank you, Kathy!

Marcy says there are still some Convergence pouches out and there is still some sewing to be done, so there will be a sewing session at Marcy's on the 9th and on the 16th after the meeting.

Marcy announced that the people at Convergence are having problems assigning workshops because people are waiting to sign up—so if you're going, *sign up!*

Lu Harding presented the slate of candidates for election.

Debbie Stringer brought updated profile sheets for the Guild for us to use when exhibiting. and read the announcement of the two-day workshop with Doramay Keasby, Oct. 17-18 in N.O.

Marcy had tri-fold flyers for her classes.

Our white elephant sale raised \$15.50 for the library.

Show and tell

- Frontier rag dolls and woven rag "minnow bucket" waste basket by Melba Nipper
- Dollhouse linen rug sample of traditional 2/1 twill by Nancy Landrum
- Handspun merino/silk yarn and crocheted perle cotton button by Jane Dollar

President's letter

by Marcy Petrini

Early in my career, I was worried that I wouldnt formulate enough ideas to sustain my research. While at the University of Washington, one evening over coffee, I and two others of my training colleagues brainstormed for hours; we really thought we were hot stuff, coming up with thousands of ideas that nobody had ever thought before.

The next day we decided to discuss our ideas with a young faculty member who wasnt our mentor, but who was our sounding board. (Since then he has gone on to a very distinguished career, so our choice was good.) Dr. Tom Robertson patiently listed to all of our ideas, and when we finally stopped, he said something that has been my guiding light through all these years, not only in research, but also in life. Tom simply said: Ideas are cheap; it's the work that goes to implement them that counts. Then he patiently explained that good scientists have lots of good ideas (at least he considered us good scientists!), but after the ideas, the hard work begins. First, we needed to decide which ideas are not workable, for example because of lack of technology, and which ones are workable but require too much resources, or resources we dont have. Then we needed to determine which ideas have been tried and haven't panned out (those who don't know their history are doomed to repeat it). And finally, we will be left with more ideas that we can carry out.

At this point, we needed to make a hard decision of where we wanted to focus our attention, and once that decision was made, the real hard work began. Lots of blood, sweat and tears are between a well thought-out idea and reality. I firmly believe that whatever success I have had over the years, has come from having Tom's simple sentence hatched in my brain.

Each idea I have, I analyze, make a decision whether to pursue it or not, and if I decide to do it, I work like h*ll to accomplish it, and that often

Each idea I have, I analyze, make a decision whether to pursue it or not, and if I decide to do it, I work like h*ll to accomplish it, and that often includes getting others to work on it as well, since sometimes my efforts alone are not enough. The rest are just cheap ideas.

Why am I telling you all this? Because, from your prospective, as you throw out hundreds of good ideas at me at the meeting, I must sound negative (and good people, like good scientists, have good ideas!). It's not that I don't think that your ideas are good; it's that for the most part, I have already had those thoughts, have analyzed them, and I have worried about the implementation part—you know, the part that counts!

So, I think I owe you an explanation of my thought process. Not to say that some of these ideas are not workable. You decide. But you must be prepared to decide whether it is worth our limited resources, and whether you are willing to implement the idea. You know, the part that counts.

Let's start with membership, because that's central to everything else. When I hear you talk about membership, and demonstrating, I hear you lumping those together. First of all, we must ask: why do we want to increase membership? I know it sounds obvious, but it really isn't. The answer to that question will determine what we will do to increase membership.

Traditionally, guilds like ours, and including ours, have been groups of practitioners. If we continue in that tradition—and nobody says that we have to—then looking for members in the general population doesn't make much sense. It's not cost effective, in the lingo of the 90s, or is like looking for the proverbial needle in the haystack. What we have to do is target people who may be interested in being practitioners, but we, as individuals, have to bring them to that level. I do my

part by teaching weaving classes, which over the years have been rather successful.

Let's face it, there aren't that many people who want to be weavers or spinners. It's not like getting people to join, say, a local church. Alternatively, we could open up membership to a larger group of practitioners, or interested folks. That sounds enticing, until one starts thinking about programs and membership benefits that would interest other practitioners, for example surface designers. We already have a hard time finding programs that are of interest to all of our members; if we were to include quilters, stitchers, etc., I think we would dilute our efforts. Other guilds have tried this, and in some cases, the new fiber guilds, as they are called, have grown, but they have done so at the expenses of the weavers and spinners, who have found themselves to be a minority. Growth has come at a cost, a cost that we need to think about carefully if we want to go in that direction.

Not to say that I think we shouldn't demonstrate. When I do, I do it to educate the public, not so that the individuals will become weavers or spinners, but because our crafts are part of our heritage and they shouldn't be lost from the knowledge base of the general person. Sure, I have found students that way, but I consider that a bonus, not the goal. And I hope to touch children; whether their interest will grow as a result of my demonstrating, I will probably never know. But that's OK. I know it can happen.

Personally, I think that the best way to increase membership is a persistent presence with flyers. Let's face it, there aren't enough of us to participate in every craft show in the state, and in some cases, we would have to pay a fee to be there. We barely had enough people for sheep to shawl this year (this is before we knew it would rain). Leaving flyers or the brochures, when they will be available, whenever we go is a much more cost-effective way to reach a larger number of people.

I hope we can continue to discuss membership. But, remember, I will continue to play devil's advocate, make you think through your ideas, and determine whether, no matter how good the idea is, the rest of the group is willing to work for it. You know, the part that counts.

For sale

Margaret Pittman has for sale **space-dyed yarns** of silk, cotton and rayon, and scarf kits. For information, call Margaret at 601-956-1478.

Dundas table loom with 15-dent reed. Weaving width is 25 inches. Eight harnesses, plenty of Texlov heddles per harness, lease sticks and a double warp beam. \$500. It is a very good loom but I need a smaller one for my purposes. Contact Nancy Landrum, 1019 Grand Ave., Meridian, MS 39301; phone 601-482-8823 or e-mail NLand85863@aol.com.

FROM
KATHY COHRON

Directions to Our Home!!!

Proceed down Old Agency Road going WEST past St. Andrews High School. Old Agency will deadend at Livingston Road. Turn right and go 3.1 MILES. We are on the right side of the road. (Note: Once you turn right on Livingston **do not** turn off keep going straight and Livingston will turn into Lake Cavalier Road)

