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Summer 2018 Newsletter

# Chimneyville Weavers & Spinners Guild

## President's message

By Nancy Landrum, CWSG president

Last night in Reno. What a wonderful thing Convergence is. Meeting people, having conversations you never thought you would have. Seeing phenomenal work that you would have never dreamed possible. And in all of that actually feeling yourself part of it. More about Convergence this fall.

I have had great fun weaving this summer—linen and buttons. I have warp left so there is more to do. I am thinking about the Spiral Textile project for part of that warp. Go to spiraltextile.com for information if you are intrigued.

Have a great rest of the summer.



Nancy's amazing handwoven linen with inserted buttons. She has some explaining to do!



Gio Chinchar's fine handwoven towels, two completed and one on the loom.

## CWSG board to meet

From Nancy Landrum

Nancy would like to have a board meeting in Jackson. The time and place will be announced later.

## May meeting: Museum tour

Many thanks to Alma Ellis and Jo Miles-Seely for coordinating our wonderful "behind-the-scenes" guided textile tour at the Museum of Mississippi History, in downtown Jackson. We

## CWSG Officers

Each officer serves a two-year term on the CWSG board.

- President: Nancy Landrum
- Past president: Gio Chinchar
- Vice president: Alma Ellis
- Secretary: Beth Palmer
- Librarian/historian: Kathy Perito
- Treasurer: Nancy Hester

## About CWSG

CWSG brings together people who enjoy and want to learn more about weaving and/or spinning.

## Membership

Membership is open to anyone with like interests. Annual membership fee is \$25. A membership form is available at [cvillewsg.com](http://cvillewsg.com); click on "membership."

## Meetings

We usually meet on the third Saturday of the month, September through May. Meetings include a business session, program and show-and-tell, beginning at 10 a.m. at the Mississippi Craft Center in Ridgeland, unless otherwise noted.

## Newsletter deadline

Please email newsletter submissions to newsletter editor Debbie Stringer ([news@ecm.coop](mailto:news@ecm.coop)) by the first day of the month of publication.

## Contact info (note new address)

[www.cvillewsg.com](http://www.cvillewsg.com)

Chimneyville Weavers & Spinners Guild  
PO Box 793  
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were wowed by the museum's extensive holdings in storage, including handwoven coverlets, Choctaw baskets, antique quilts, handmade garments and so much more. There was also a loom made in Tishomingo County in 1887 and a great wheel. (For security reasons, the museum staff asked us not to publish any photos made during our tour.)

After the tour we enjoyed lunch at Keifer's. The meeting consisted entirely of the tour; there was no business session.

## Summer guild retreat in Canton

By Kathy Perito

What fun we had! For those unable to attend, not to worry—planning the next one is not far off!

We began arriving at the Gray Center in Canton on Friday afternoon. As we got comfortable in our eight-bedroom cottage we all commented on the heirloom-style coverlets on each bed.

The pre-dawn sky across the lake was a beautiful sight to begin the day.

In addition to the common area in our cottage, we had use of a meeting room to set up and spread out our project work. This provided plenty of room for those of us staying for the weekend and those able to attend only for a day to spin, knit, weave, bead, embellish, etc. while discussing any and every topic under the sun. We actually did cover some guild business during this time.

We talked about hosting Roc Day in January of 2020. Our multi-guild Roc Day celebration is traditionally held on the first Saturday of the new year. Since in 2020 that is Jan. 4, we wondered if postponing a week until Jan. 11 would give everyone time to recover from the hectic holiday season. Marcy offered to contact representatives from the other participating guilds for their input on the date. It seems that the preference would be to hold Roc Day on Jan. 11, 2020.

Sharon suggested we might hang our 2020 annual exhibit in the George Berry Gallery to coincide with the Roc Day festivities. The theme that emerged for our exhibit is Roc Day 2020: Perfect Vision. Suggestions were made about what we each could make to contribute to the goodie bags and possibly devoting one monthly meeting date in the coming months to crafting items together. All good topics to discuss when we meet again in the fall.

And then there was the food—lots of food. We had snacks and beverages to share throughout the weekend in our cottage and the meeting room. And as we wandered to the dining hall to stuff ourselves at scheduled meal times, the resident watch-cat made sure to greet us.

Now back to those coverlets. Finding the label "HEIRLOOMS FROM OUR LOOMS Old Abingdon Weavers," I decided to do some web surfing. I came across a couple of newspaper articles about Bob the Weaver.

Robert (Bob) Harman retired from military service and eventually was drawn into his family's trade of textile weaving. Bob's dream was to establish an educational textile mu-

## Upcoming Meetings

*All meetings begin at 10 a.m. at the Mississippi Craft Center, unless otherwise noted.*

- **Sept. 15. Details to come.**

## Calendar

• **"Stories Unfolded" Quilt Exhibit,** through Sept. 2018, at the Mississippi Civil Rights Museum/Museum of Mississippi History in downtown Jackson. Forty Mississippi-made quilts from territorial times to present day, from the collection of the Mississippi Department of Archives and History.

• **"Material Pulses: Seven Viewpoints,"** Oct. 6 - Jan. 13, 2019. Exhibit of art quilts, mixed media and installation work at the Mississippi Museum of Art in Jackson. Details: MSMuseumart.org.

• **Dyed in the Wool Weavers and Spinners Guild Show,** Nov. 5-30, Pass Christian Library. Theme is "Things I've Seen, Places I've Been." Guild members will demo and talk with visitors Nov. 8 from 10:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

• **Roc Day, Jan. 5, 2019.** Pass Christian Yacht Club. Host: Dyed in the Wool Weavers and Spinners Guild of the Miss. Gulf Coast. 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Pre-registration deadline Dec. 1. Details and registration forms at GulfCoastRocDay.com.

## Shop and Support CWSG

### • Halcyon Yarn

Support CWSG when you shop at Halcyon Yarn. Just tell them you are a guild member and we'll receive 5%. Click on "Guild Rewards" on Halcyon's home page to learn more.

### • Woolery link

Support the guild when you shop online at The Woolery. Use the Woolery link on our website, cvilleswg.com, so we will reap the benefits!



Retreaters are, from left, Jane Klink, Donna Peyton, Beth Palmer, Jo Miles-Seely, Kathy Perito, Nancy Hester, Marcy Petrini, Nancy Landrum, Debbie Stringer, Brenda Harrower, Sharon Williams and Carolyn Campbell (who made the photo).

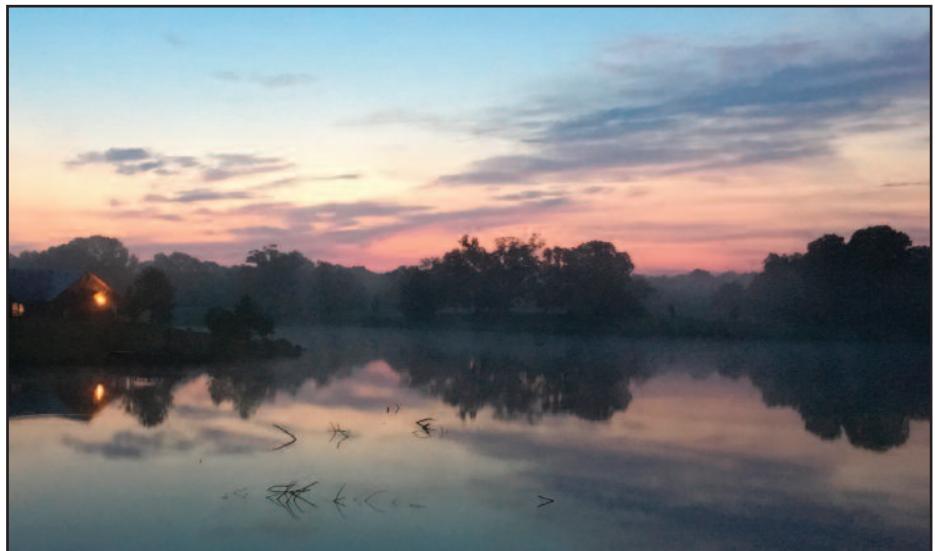
Handwoven coverlets (right) from Old Abingdon Weavers covered the beds in each of our cabin's eight bedrooms. How appropriate was that! A peaceful sunrise over the still lake greeted us in the morning (below). Photos by Kathy Perito.

seum to share the textile-rich history of western Virginia. The museum did not generate the interest that Bob had hoped and quickly drained his financial resources.

Bob and his wife had acquired several Crompton & Knowles looms built in the early 1900s. Their philosophy was that while modern looms can replicate heirloom patterns, only these traditional looms can weave fabric with the look and feel of heirlooms.

They continued to weave on these looms, producing about 20 yard of fabric a day for coverlets, blankets, placemats and towels to help pay the bills.

In addition to being found on our cottage beds, Old Abingdon Weaver's products have been purchased by Ethan Allen, Colonial Williamsburg and the Smithsonian. In 2011, a representative of The



Hill-Side line of finely crafted men's accessories discovered Bob's fabric and commissioned 3,000 yards a year of his "modified herringbone" fabric to fashion into men scarves and ties.

To see Bob working, here is a link to a short video clip The Hill-Side created while visiting Bob the Weaver: <https://vimeo.com/55053653>

In summary, between snacks, I was able to spin some Polwarth/silk fiber, warp my inkle loom with cards, weave a strap and catch up with wonderful fiber friends. I'm already looking forward to our next retreat!

(Nancy Hester and Kathy Perito did a marvelous job of organizing our retreat, and we owe them a huge thanks! They even filled goodie baskets with items customized for each participant to welcome us as we arrived.)



Marcy gets fitted for a hat in Virginia City.

## Convergence Reno 2018: My personal experience

By Marcy Petrini

Convergence was phenomenal this year. The fashion show was terrific, reminiscent of casino entertainment; Jason Collingwood was a great keynote speaker, funny and informative at the same time.

I offered two three-hour seminars (*A Pictionary of Weaving Structures* and *There is Nothing Plain about Plain Weave*), one one-and-a-half hour seminar (*Your Fabric Is Not Always a Painting*) and a one-day workshop (*A Weaving Year of Wonder*). They were all well received and fun.

I also juried the yardage exhibit, gave awards to four wonderful pieces and presented two juror's talks. Looking at fabric under those circumstances is a totally different experience and it truly makes me focus on what good cloth is really like.

I also was one of the reviewers for the Open Portfolio, which was also a first. It was really heart-warming to meet students or new graduates who are doing wonderful weaving in college art programs. It gives me hope for the future.

I participated in one seminar on *Traditional Silk Weaving in Hill Tribe Laos*; the couple who presented it also had a booth in the Marketplace, right by the door, so it made it easy to shop! I will bring my purchases to future guild meetings.

I took two bus tours (and was bus "Mom" for both). I love tours because I get to see things that are either not generally open to the public or offer a special program for the conference. The *Behind the Scenes of Reno's Art Community* took us, among other places, to where a lot of the past Burning Man pieces are stored and new ones are being made.

The other tour was *Hats Off to Nevada*, a beautiful drive to Virginia City and then Carson City. There is a French traditional hat maker in Virginia City who still makes, among others, cowboy hats. To make the hat fit perfectly, he fits people's heads with old tools. Here I am being fitted for my hat in a photo taken by my friend Jean Jordan.

In Carson City we had a tour of the textile storage facilities for the museum, gorgeous garments and, yes, hats, lots of hats from various eras.

But the most wonderful thing about Convergence is the people, seeing old friends and making new ones, visiting on bus tours or at a late snack with a glass of wine. I had three first-time mentees and an intern for two of my seminars, so it was nice meeting some new weavers.

And the best news is: The next Convergence will be in Knoxville, Tenn., in late July 2020. Start saving!

### Treasurer's Report

Prior adjusted balance	\$3,057.87
Add:	
Interest	.08
Less:	
Old P.O. box renewal	(60.00)
Net carrying value	\$2,997.95

From Nancy Hester, CWSG treasurer:

- **Guild dues are due by the Sept. 15 meeting.** Nancy will email renewal reminders soon.
  - The new guild address is c/o Nancy Hester, P.O. Box 793, Clinton, MS 39060.
  - Nancy will send retreat members an invoice for the gratuity plus an extra bit for taxes for a few attendees, as we discussed at the retreat.
  - The current CWSG account balance detailed above includes an adjustment for this receivable.

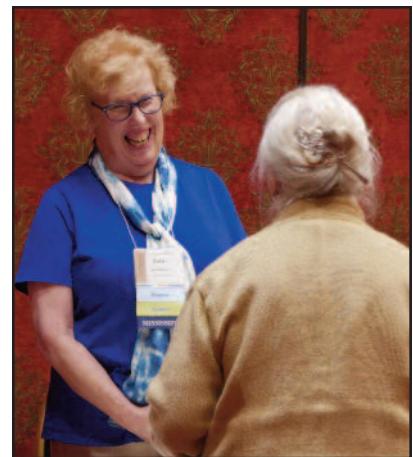
# CWSG at Convergence Reno 2018

By Marcy Petrini

New to Convergence this year was a "Meet and Greets" regional guilds' networking session. The organizer asked me to represent the Craftsmen's Guild of Mississippi Inc. and Roc Day, and since our HGA rep Nancy Hester could not attend Convergence, we combined it all and had a Mississippi table.

Debbie Stringer did her magic so we could have nice CWSG flyers and Roc Day flyers with the help of Jean Sparkes, who will be hosting Roc Day 2019. We printed flyers, we obtained some brochures for the Craft Center and the CGM, we bought Nandy's Candy Mississippi chocolates and we had a successful table!

My first juror's talk overlapped with most of the "Meet and Greets" time, so I enlisted Beth Palmer to (wo)man our table. In this photo, Terry caught Beth having a good time!



Beth Palmer shares some Mississippi hospitality at Convergence.

## Fiber saints and goddesses: Saint Rafqa

By Donna Peyton

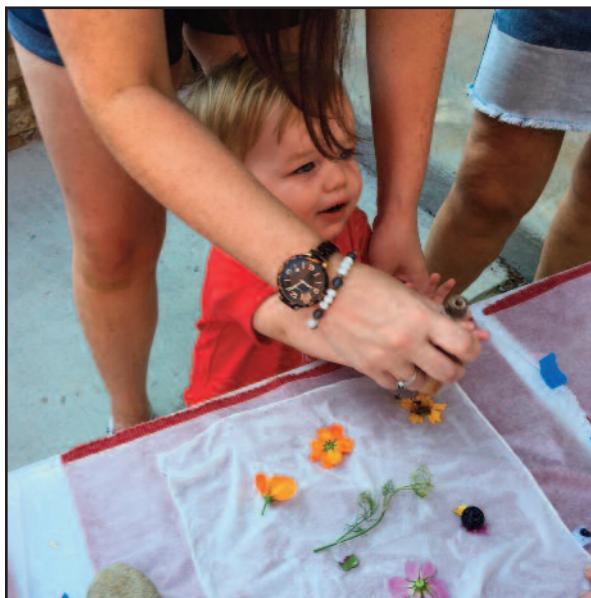
Saint Rafqa is unofficially listed as a patron saint of knitters, especially of sock knitters. She was a Lebanese Maronite Nun that was canonized by Pope John Paul II in 2001.

Born in 1832, she became a nun in 1871. She became a teacher and established an all-girls school.

In 1885 she prayed to share Christ's sufferings, and from then on led a life of ill-health, becoming blind and crippled, possibly from tuberculosis.

In 1887 she helped to found a new monastery in Jrabta, Batroun, in Lebanon.

Until she became completely paralyzed, she continued to spin wool and knit. Once she became bed-ridden her knitting consisted solely of socks. After her death in 1914, miraculous cures were attributed to those who visited her grave.



From Winki Allen: At the new Mississippi Arts + Entertainment Experience (the MAX ) in Meridian, volunteering for Go Green Meridian, a hands-on Hapa-Zome on silk hankies with toddlers and young children on June 30. They have asked us back for a repeat in the fall!

## Want ads

- From Alma Ellis: For sale: 5-inch Schacht Cricket with stand and three rigid heddles (8/10/12 dent). One early-style variable heddle, includes two rails with two sections of 5-dent heddle/one section of 10-dent heddle. \$350 for all. Email Alma at almacelllis@gmail.com.

- From Joan Henderson, *Dyed in the Wool Weavers and Spinners*: I've had someone here on the coast contact me about a floor loom that would be heavy enough to weave rugs. It would be going to Little Rock but the mother lives here on the coast. If you have one for sale or know of one for sale, please let me know and I will put you in contact with her.

- From Jane Sullivan, *New Orleans Weavers Guild*: For sale: 20-inch Schacht rigid heddle loom including stand, 12-dent reed, Wolf trap, bag, one 5-dent reed, one 10-dent reed, two 8-dent reeds, 1 variable reed and a warping peg. \$675 for all.

Also, a small triangle loom, 30x21x21 with stand. \$25

Contact Jane Sullivan, jchenuau@yahoo.com; 504-782-6622.