

Chimneyville Weavers & Spinners Guild

February 2021 Newsletter

President's Message:

Nothing Like Limitations To Stimulate Creativity

Beth Palmer

Are we beginning to discern the light at the end of the pandemic tunnel? Hope springs forth as vaccinations become available and more and more of us are receiving them. Yes, we must continue to wear masks and wash our hands, but perhaps we feel a bit more willing to interact with one another. How the fabric of our humanity has frayed this past year!

On the flip side, I'm finding more time to spend weaving as activities elsewhere have been severely limited. A few months ago, I decided to "do something" with my ever-growing pile of thrums from recent projects. Most were 6-10" long, some mercerized cotton, some Tencel. I started tying them together, which is a mindless activity to keep my hands away from snacks while watching television. Pretty soon I had a ball the size of a baseball. "I'd better test to see if this thrum-tying is worth it," I thought, "before I spend more of my time doing this."

I decided to thread my Wolf Pup with a warp of black Tencel. Having recently finished Marcy's class on Lacey Weaves, I recalled her comments about 3/1 unbalanced twill. One side is warp-faced; the other side is weft-faced (photos above and next page). What a great way to show off my thrum-tied weft!

I am delighted with the results and look forward to more mindless thrum-tying. I did not plan the sequence of thrum colors. Whatever came next out of my basket got added to the weft. I also did not trim any of the knot ends. I kind of like the unkempt look of them. One surprise was the very different but equally beautiful warp-faced side of the scarf. I can't wait to explore this technique more!



By the way, producing weft yarn by tying thrums together is a traditional Japanese technique known as “zanshi.” The technique emerged at least 500 years ago as a means of extending the life of precious cotton thread, which yielded much softer fabric than the traditional hemp.

I can even tie thrums together as I wait in line for my second dose of vaccine!

January Meeting Minutes

Jeanne Marie Peet, secretary

The January meeting of CWSG was called to order by President Beth Palmer on Saturday, Jan. 16, 2021, at 10 a.m. via Zoom video-conferencing. A quorum was determined with 17 members present. A motion to accept the agenda was presented by Marcy Petrini and seconded by Jeanne Marie Peet; the agenda was accepted. The minutes from the Nov. 21, 2020, meeting, as printed in the December newsletter, were unanimously accepted upon a motion by Marcy Petrini and a second by Beverly Anglin.

The first sale of the CWSG Co-op was on Dec. 4-5 and 11-12, 2020, at the Chimneyville At Home Arts Festival, held at the Bill Waller Craft Center from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. each day of the event. Items not sold in this event will go to the *Fiber Fluency* show at the Oxford Arts Festival Jan. 15-23. Sharon Williams and Patricia Holmberg plan to attend this festival.

An informal Roc Day demonstration on Jan. 9 at the William Waller Craft Center engaged about eight members demonstrating spinning, weaving and related fiber arts. Going forward, members are invited to demonstrate at the Craft Center on a monthly basis, with the next demo planned for Saturday, Feb. 13, from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. All CWSG members are welcome to participate.

Donna Peyton moved, and Patricia Holmberg seconded the motion, to consider a Sheep to Shawl event this year, possibly renaming it if necessary. After discussion, Marcy Petrini moved that we secure the date of March 13, 2021, with the Craft Center and then proceed with planning the event. Debbie Stringer seconded the motion, which passed with a voice vote.

Marcy Petrini moved and Donna Peyton seconded that we develop a custom colorway for CWSG, and that fiber artist Judy Busby be given artistic license for developing several possible designs for us to consider. Motion carried.

Sharon Williams inquired about interest in a request from Piney Woods School to make and donate caps and scarves for students at the school. More details were requested by members before moving ahead with this.

After a show-and-tell from the members present, the meeting was adjourned and members enjoyed a most informative program on *Matching Fiber, Yarn & Structure* by Marcy Petrini.



Demo Day at the Craft Center

Donna Peyton

The CWSG Co-op got together on Jan. 9 to demo at the Craft Center (photos at right), since Roc Day did not happen this year due to Covid-19. We had a wonderful day of various spinning and weaving activities while enjoying each other's company. Several people came over to view the work going on, and we even had a llama owner who was extremely interested in what we were doing.



CWSG Program

Updates

Beth Palmer

- **Saturday, Feb. 20**, via Zoom - Sharon Williams presents *What Makes a Good Fiber Art Show?* Sharon will talk about some things for us to consider when creating a piece for a show and how to display our work.
- **Saturday, March 13**, in person at Bill Waller Craft Center - Sheep to Shawl (or Fleece to Shawl) demonstrations of shearing (if we have sheep), washing, carding, spinning and weaving. Open to the public. (**Note:** Change of regular meeting date on account of wedding at the Craft Center)
- **Saturday, April 24**, in person at location TBD - Celebration of Sharon Williams' attainment of lifetime membership. This will be a luncheon meeting. (**Note:** Change of regular meeting date is on account of show/sale at the Craft Center.)
- **Saturday, May 15**, in person at Bill Waller Craft Center - *Rigid Heddle: Beyond Plain Weave* workshop with Angela Schneider (**Note:** Workshop is full.)



Upcoming Show Info

Sharon Williams

I will hang the CWSG exhibit in the George Berry Gallery on Friday, March 12. I will use the pieces left from the Chimneyville At Home show for the March exhibit.

Also, on April 16 I will need any new things CWSG members might have for the April Spring Show to update the exhibit already hanging.

Next CWSG Co-op Meeting Set

Sharon Williams

We will have a CWSG Co-op meeting on Saturday, April 10. An agenda will be sent in advance. We will vote on new members, and any new pieces to be added for the Spring Craft Show should be delivered at that time.

Nancy's Coat Selected for HGA 'Wearable Art' Exhibit

Nancy Landrum

I almost didn't enter. It is hard to put yourself out there. However, my husband says you owe it to yourself, your guild and HGA to participate even if you don't succeed. I think he is right.

I know for a fact there are spinners and knitters who could produce garments as fine as the sweater in the show. We have members who can do wonders with the sewing machine. And there are all of the wonderful weavers.

I really want to encourage everyone to go for it.

Thanks for all of the congrats from everyone. I feel honored.



Nancy's granddaughter models her "Snow Queen's Coat," featuring shadow weave in wool and silk. The coat was juried into HGA's Seasons of the Smokies wearable art exhibit. You can see the entire show online at www.WeaveSpinDye.org. Click on Exhibits.

Look for 'Challenge' Results in Next SS&D

Marcy Petrini

Thinking ahead for my *Right from the Start* [Marcy's column in *Shuttle Spindle & Dyepot*], I started the challenge in response to something I have heard over the years: Why not just copy somebody else's pattern? All those stripes look the same. I must admit that going through magazines sometimes I have the feeling that the designs are all more of the same.

So, I thought: Well, I know a group of creative weavers; what would they do if I asked them to come up with a design with just two colors in plain weave? Except for the obvious all-blue warp with green weft or vice versa, there were 22 other designs from 12 weavers. Think of the possibilities when adding more colors, use structures, etc. No, all designs are not the same.

Calendar

- **25th Convergence**, July 15-21, 2022, Knoxville (Tenn.) Convention Center.
www.WeaveSpinDye.org

About Chimneyville Weavers & Spinners Guild

CWSG brings together people who enjoy and want to learn more about weaving and spinning. Our guild is based in the Jackson, Mississippi, area.

Officers

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

President: Beth Palmer

Vice President: Gio Chinchar

Secretary: Jeanne Marie Peet

Treasurer: Nancy Hester

Librarian/Historian: Janet Lee

Past President: Nancy Landrum

Membership

Membership is open to anyone with like interests. The annual membership fee is \$25. A membership form is available at cvillewsg.com/; click on “membership.”

CWSG members may also join the CWSG Co-op, which is a member of the Craftsmen’s Guild of Mississippi and provides opportunities to sell original handwoven and handspun work through CGM’s shows and gallery.

Meetings/Events

CWSG normally meets on the third Saturday of the month, September through May. Meetings include a business session, program and show-and-tell. We begin at 10 a.m. at the Bill Waller Sr. Craft Center, www.MSCrafts.org, in Ridgeland, Miss., unless otherwise noted.

During the pandemic, however, meetings are being conducted online via Zoom.

We also conduct public outreach activities such as group weaving and spinning demonstrations as well as a springtime demonstration day known as Sheep to Shawl, all at the Craft Center.

Next guild meeting: Feb. 20, 10 a.m., via Zoom: *What Makes a Good Fiber Art Show?* Sharon Williams, presenter

Newsletter

Please email newsletter content submissions to newsletter editor Debbie Stringer (dhstringer@gmail.com) by the first day of the month of publication. If you are sending a photo, please include caption information. Your comments and suggestions for improving our newsletter are always welcome!

Chimneyville Weavers & Spinners Guild

P.O. Box 793, Clinton, MS 39060

cvillewsg.com