

Chimneyville Weavers & Spinners Guild

March 2021 Newsletter

President's Message:

Fun Springtime Events Ahead

Beth Palmer

We have lots going on in the next few months in our guild! We'll gather at the Bill Waller Sr. Craft Center on Saturday, March 13, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. for our annual Sheep to Shawl demonstrations. We've had a tough time this year finding a sheep, but we have not given up quite yet! We do plan to have an angora rabbit present thanks to Patricia Holmberg. And Nancy Landrum may have a lead on sheep. Please join us to demonstrate washing, carding, spinning and weaving. Pray for nice weather!

We'll honor Sharon Williams as our newest lifetime guild member with a luncheon on Saturday, April 24, beginning at 11:30 a.m. at Anjou Restaurant in Ridgeland. Sharon achieved this new status at the end of 2019 (in "the before times" as we say at our house). We are excited to be able to move forward with this event, even if we had to wait for a new decade in which to do it! All are welcome to attend. Cost is \$25 each, which includes tax and tip.

In May we'll host Angela Schneider of Allemande Fiber Arts in Memphis will lead a rigid heddle workshop on Saturday, May 15, in the Harbor View Room at the Bill Waller Sr. Craft Center. This workshop is currently fully subscribed. Contact Gio Chinchar to be added to the waiting list.

In the midst of all this, it's time for us to elect a new guild president and vice president. Alma Ellis, Janet Lee and Debbie Stringer make up the nominating committee. They will present the slate of candidates at Sheep to Shawl. We'll hold the election in April and new officers take over in May. (Stay tuned for election details.) **Please consider whether you might be called to serve our guild as one of these officers.** I guarantee you will learn a great deal!

Now go wash your hands and continue weaving! *Beth*



February Meeting Minutes

Jeanne Marie Peet, secretary

The February meeting of CWSG was called to order by President Beth Palmer via Zoom teleconferencing at 10 a.m. on Saturday, Feb. 27, 2021. A quorum was determined with 12

members present. A motion to accept the agenda was presented by Nancy Hester and seconded by Brenda Harrower; the agenda was accepted. The minutes from the Jan. 16, 2021, meeting as printed in the February newsletter were unanimously accepted upon a motion by Sharon Williams and a second by Nancy Hester.

Plans for Sheep to Shawl, to be held at the William Waller Craft Center on Saturday, March 13, from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. were discussed. Volunteers were enlisted to help with securing animals, spinning and weaving demonstrations, exhibits, set-up and take-down. Sharon Williams will be hanging the

fiber show in the George Berry Gallery on Friday, March 12. Any CWSG member wishing to participate in the exhibit should deliver items to the gallery at 1 p.m. on Friday.

The Spring Festival at the William Waller Craft Center will be April 17 for co-op members. An email on co-op membership will go out in the near future.

A luncheon for Sharon Williams in honor of her Lifetime Membership designation will be held Saturday, April 24, at 11:30 a.m. at Anjou Restaurant in Ridgeland.

There was no update on the custom guild colorway at this time.

A nominating committee to select candidates for guild president and vice president has been appointed. Members are Alma Ellis, Janet Lee and Debbie Stringer.

Nancy Hester discussed some possible options for a weaving retreat later this year.

After a show-and-tell from the members present, the meeting was adjourned, and members enjoyed a most informative program on *What Makes A Good Fiber Show* by Sharon Williams.

Weaving Ergonomics

Beth Palmer

At our Zoom meeting on Feb. 27, the topic of weaving ergonomics emerged. We traded some of our own secrets and then I did a bit of online research to see what others say about the topic.

Our weaving environment is important for a happy weaving experience. We need good ambient and task lighting. Ideally, we have task lighting that can be moved to focus on the task at hand – be it winding, threading, slewing, weaving or finishing. I love my Ott Light with its



Jane Klinck used cotton crochet thread in her pretty towel. The warp is 20 EPI and the weft is 16 PPI. She used #30 for the warp, #20 for the weft and #80 for the hem (1.5 inches each end).

bendable neck and large magnifying glass. I also have strips of LED lights installed under the castle on all of my looms.

The right bench or stool is also important. The appropriate height might change depending on the task at hand. I have a wonderful piano stool I got at Ikea years ago that is infinitely adjustable for threading and slewing. I also have a well-padded musician's seat that also adjusts in height. My latest acquisition is a mechanics stool with drawers to keep my weaving tools handy. Some folks use a weaving bench produced by a loom manufacturer.

Our posture is also important for a happy weaving experience. As with other seated activities, it's important to sit on our pelvis bones rather than our tail bone. It's good to sit tall, back straight, shoulders back. Our elbows should be higher than the breast beam and our hips higher than our knees so that we use the right muscles to change treadles and move the beater.

Finally, our behavior needs to support healthy weaving habits. No matter how good the lighting, the seat and the posture, spending too long a time at the loom without breaks is never a good thing. We need to get up, move around, stretch and change our visual focus every 20 or 30 minutes. Some of us have "tricks" that make us take breaks: cups of tea or coffee lead to bathroom breaks; single weft shuttles demand frequent winding; music CDs (do you remember them?) require changing. Even a smartwatch or phone timer can be used to remind us to get up and stretch now and then.

All of these tips (and others!) can lead to happier weaving and a healthier weaver.



Jane Klinck inserted fun yarns from another project into her handwoven scarf (10 by 60 inches). The Rozetti yarn already had the sequins in it.

Calendar

- **Sheep to Shawl Fiber Show setup**, March 12, Bill Waller Sr. Craft Center. Sharon Williams will collect items at 1 p.m.
- **Sheep to Shawl**, March 13, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Bill Waller Sr. Craft Center.
- **Virtual Workshop: Weaving in a Parallel Universe**, April 17-19. Linda Hartshorn, presenter. Chattahoochee Handweavers Guild event via Zoom; for eight or more shafts. Details: <https://chgweavers.org/product/weaving-in-a-parallel-universe-april-2020-workshop>
- **Luncheon Honoring Lifetime Member Sharon Willams**, April 24 at Anjou Restaurant in Ridgeland.
- **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 event: Sheep to Shawl, March 13, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., Craft Center

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!

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