

Vermont Weavers Guild Spring 2012 Newsletter

President's Message . . .

Greetings, Vermont Weavers –

I certainly hope everyone has had a pleasant and healthy holiday season.

As we drift back to something that looks like reality, I would expect that many of us have included a weaving project we are excited about in our plans. I believe that often our winter weaving projects differ from our warm weather ones; there is something iconic about Vermont winters, woodstoves, and warm, fuzzy fibers. Many really nice blankets have been born of a Vermont winter.

But whatever your fiber interests, our Program Committee is trying to satisfy your curiosity. One of the great things about the Guild is that there is always someone to answer your questions, as well as share in your enthusiasm. We will have programs in the upcoming months that include information about a range of techniques. February starts us off with show-and-tell, which is at least as much fun now as it was in Kindergarten, because we actually care about what everyone else is bringing to show us. And in the afternoon, we'll discuss computer programs for weavers – an idea even a Luddite like me is warming up to. There really is something for everyone – so please join in the exchange of ideas and information, with like-minded folk!

See you at the Guild meeting ~~~ Barbara

Newsletter Editor's Note . . .

Hi all, The newsletter may look a little different than usual and may come in dribs and drabs, but there have been a few kinks (more than usual) in my schedule for the last two months. Such as it is, here is the info on the Spring programs, as they stand right now.

Check out the April listing. We have the opportunity to piggyback on the New Hampshire Weavers Guild programs and share travel costs to get Daryl Lancaster here in April. We are proposing a 2-day workshop with the caveat that if not enough people sign up by March 15th, we will still have Daryl Lancaster but the program would change to our regular format of a morning lecture and afternoon workshop. ----Julie

February 11, 2012

The February Guild meeting will be our ever popular show and tell, along with our regular business meeting. Bring all your wonderful handwovens for us to marvel over, be inspired from, and ask questions about. Also, bring those "dogs" and mistakes that we can all brainstorm about and, at the least, feel better about the ones we didn't bring. Be brave, in both categories.

After lunch, guild members will share, through Powerpoint and talk, their experience with FiberWorks PCW. If you are familiar with this program, please come prepared to share your experience, and if you don't even know what it is, plan to spend the afternoon learning from your awesome guild mates. Hope to see everyone again after our brief hiatus. There is no charge for this since it is not a workshop but a sharing of info. We can all teach each other things about how the program works and share its capabilities to those who want to know more about PCW. If you have another computer weaving program that you like, bring that along and we can learn about it and talk about how they differ.

March 10, 2012 – Weaving at Warp Speed

This workshop is appropriate for anyone who wants to pick up a little speed in their weaving...whether to be able to make more great weavings in less time, or to become a production weaver.

In the morning, Dena will present "Ten (relatively) Easy Ways to Weave Faster" where we'll talk about some of the most common things that slow us down and how to overcome them.

In the afternoon, we will take an in depth look at three aspects of the weaving process. First is equipment...what makes looms better or worse for speed, and what accessories can best support your weaving. Second is body mechanics; the nuts and bolts of the weaving process. Third is treadling sequences and hints for how to adjust your treadling for ease and speed while weaving complex patterns. Workshop cost \$25.

About Dena:

Dena has been weaving production for fourteen years and sells her line of chenille scarves, shawls and hats at highly juried craft shows and fine galleries around New England. She runs Vermont Weaving School and can weave a chenille scarf in twenty minutes. More info about her school is at: www.vermontweavingschool.com. More info about her line of Handwovens is at: www.vermontweaver.com.

April 14-15 (Maybe, it all depends on you!)

As I noted above, we are hoping that enough of you will like this program and sign up for it by the March 15th deadline. Otherwise, Daryl will give a lecture in the morning, open to all and have the Weaving a Memory, short version in the afternoon workshop.

Weaving a Memory, 2-day

Morning will be a lecture on this subject, open to all guild members. Afternoon and Sunday will be a hands-on workshop.

An unusual use for a time honored technique; this four shaft inlay structure can produce a powerful personal statement, capturing a memory by using printed images on cloth. Learn to scan, and manipulate images in Photoshop, and print digital images on silk or cotton with an ink jet printer. The cloth images will then be cut apart into strips, and rewoven back together using a four shaft structure with a ground cloth and tie-down threads. 4-Shaft Loom required, computer is not. There is a \$20 materials fee that includes pick-up stick and 3-4 sheets of silk and/or cotton and ink jet ink. 2-day Workshop cost – \$100.

Please join Daryl in her journey and create a meaningful piece for yourself.

ARTIST'S STATEMENT

Between the sewing machine and the loom, my journey in the fiber arts has taken over 40 years. From an alterations business at 15, to production hand-woven clothing, to custom art to wear, my work has covered, adorned, and embellished the female body for as long as I can remember. The skills I have developed sewing unusual fabrics, such as handwovens, and the years of experience fitting the female body have made for an interesting combination of material to offer in workshops, seminars, and lectures.

Traditionally I have used the garment as a canvas, the garment is a covering for the body which is a covering for the soul. My new body of artwork takes me off the clothing grid. The simplicity of the format, images from personal losses and celebrations, cut apart, and rewoven back together to look almost whole again, gives me an ability to embrace the difficulties and joys in my life without the garment canvas, these images don't need to cover my soul, they are indelibly etched into it. The 2006 death of my best friend, my Mother-in-Law, Margaret Lancaster, and the 7th anniversary of my breast cancer diagnosis, have given me material to explore areas of my soul that are grieving yet celebrating.

May 12, 2012 – To Be Announced

OTHER NEWS

Program Committee Members Needed

And by the way, at our business meeting we will be looking for nominations for the Program Committee, consider joining us (Toby, Michele and Julie) to help plan the upcoming events in your guild.

Vermont Weavers Guild Biennial Exhibit Theme Set

Intrepid VWG volunteer, Beth Balon, volunteered to be the coordinator for the guild's next exhibit. The VWG presents an exhibit of members' weaving every two years. The next exhibit will be in May 2013. The exhibit is juried for those who wish to have their pieces juried. The exhibit is always opened in the May prior to the New England Weavers Seminar (NEWS). NEWS is a 3-4 day regional seminar held every two years in the off year between Handweavers Guild of America's biennial seminar "Convergence." In order for a piece to be entered in the NEWS exhibits, it must be pre-juried at the guild level. It's an opportunity for our members to show their work in a more formal setting than our meeting "show and tell" setting. I wish to encourage everyone to weave something for the exhibit. You get feedback from the judges and we all love seeing what everyone has done.

Beth tells us that the theme is "Water" to reflect our post-Irene lives. Since everyone has water in their lives, I know it will be a theme that is found in all our works, some more obvious than others.

Editor's Endnote . . .

Thanks all for being patient. Please sign up for the workshops and hopefully we'll see you in February.

To register . . .

Send checks to Janet Ruggles-Power, 29 High Street, Waterbury, VT 05676 – send Janet an e-mail if you're not sure whether you have paid your dues or not (rpower@pshift.com).

March 10, 2012 – Weaving at Warp Speed - \$20

April 14-15, 2012 – Weaving a Memory (2-day) - \$100 (or \$50 deposit)