

Fall 2006 Newsletter

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The Weaver either buyeth his Silk; his Wool, his Cotton, Hair, Hemp, Flax; or buyeth his yarn, or Thread made of all or any of these; Some of which he Scowreth, he mixeth his Colours sortieth his Yarns, then he fitteth it on to his Beam.

The weavers pocket-book: or, weaving spiritualized in a discourse, wherein men employed in that occupation, are instructed how to raise heavenly meditations, from the several parts of their work. To which also are added some few moral and spiritual observations, relating both to that and other trades. By J.C.D.D.

by John Collinges 1623-1690

John Brown 1695

To Enter or Not! *By Loris Epps*

How many times have you received an announcement about an upcoming opportunity to enter some of your work into a juried show? Do you just toss the information into the trash or do you give it some consideration. What are the determining factors?

Here are some of the questions that probably run through your mind:

- Is my work good enough
- If my entry is accepted, will it be on display and for how long
- How much does it cost to enter
- What does it require other than completing a form and mailing my item; i.e. slides, photographs, hand delivery, etc.

Sometime it is worth it just to take the chance and enter! In most cases, you will receive a critique or some type of feedback about your work and this in turn could help to improve your work. At the very least, it will give you some idea of how others might view your work.

Read the instructions well. Select your item based upon what you believe the type of work the show/exhibition is seeking. Use the web and/or previous show catalogues as a guideline for your selection. Consider the preparation and cost of paperwork and shipping into the total expenditure.

Okay, you have decided to enter. Now what? Clearly understand the deadlines and

allow more time than you think you might need, unless you are willing to pay priority or

(cont'd p.7)



July 21, 2007 9:00 am—5:00 pm Look Park,
Northampton, MA (mark the date)



The Guild again supported the Glasgow Lands Scottish with over 15 members helping with weaving and spinning demonstrations, rug hooking and helping people on 6 table looms. We also had 2 floor looms and 2 spinners. Photos will be available at the September meeting. The towel design for this year was by Reva Greenspan. She has agreed to design a new towel for next year. Thanks Reva.

Loris wove yardage for cards that were donated for sale at this year's festival. She also donated some handwoven bookmarks. More cards are available, contact Loris.

2006-2007 GUILD PROGRAM

- September 9, 2006 *Summer wrap-up and library*
- October 14, 2006 Morning: *Finishing (sewing)* Eunice Smith
Eunice will discuss the path from the cloth on the loom to the finished piece; how to treat the different fibers and sewing techniques.

Afternoon: Dressing the Loom Alone-Pat Billingsley and Loris Epps
Pat and Loris will offer timesaving tips on dressing the loom alone. Many will demonstrated. A handout will be available.
- November 4, 2006 Morning - *Lace Study Group Start-up*.
With the help of Laurie Autio's wonderful notes from last November, we will determine what each of the participants in this study group will work on. Ute will be the referee in this session, Laura Freeman agreed to run the study group. We hope that the group will produce items to be displayed next year's Craft Adventure.

Afternoon: *Textile Journey to Uzbekistan*-Pam Engberg
Pam Engberg will treat us to a report about her trip to Uzbekistan last May. She visited Tashkent, Samarkand, Bukhara and Khiva. In Bukhara she visited a rug workshop and in Khiva a rug workshop and an embroidery studio.
- December 2, 2006 *Project and 55th Anniversary Celebration*—see page 6
- January 6, 2007 Morning: *Hands on Weaving Software*-L Epps, E Smith, Ute Bargmann
Back by popular demand and this time the program will focus on Fiberworks PCW. It will cover color and weave, variable thread thickness, double cloth, name drafts, printing your own graph paper, and using the clipboard feature for pasting drafts into other programs.

Afternoon: *M's and O's*-Ute Bargmann
Ute will discuss the possibilities and pitfalls of M's&O's a highly textured weave historically used for household linens.
- February 3, 2007 Morning: *Blended Drafts*, Loris Epps
Trick weaving as it has been called; this technique allows the combining of different drafts to create new and interesting designs.

Afternoon: *Northampton Silk Project* – Marjorie Senechal, Professor of Mathematics at Smith College, will report on the development of the Northampton Silk Project. This was a story of silk production in Florence and the inventions that went along with it. The project went on for several years and culminated in a Symposium in March of 2003, the weekend we demonstrated at the Smith Art Museum.

2006-2007 GUILD PROGRAM (*cont'd*)

March 3, 2007

All day: *Boundweave* - Eileen Goldman

We will be introduced to boundweave based on a point threading that permits us to weave figures by using different color wefts. Much of the morning will be spent on the theory behind it and the afternoon will be hands-on. In January, Eileen will let us know what we need to bring to the meeting.

April 7, 2007

Morning: *Study Group Wrap-up*

Afternoon *Backstrap Weaving*- Karen Wittshirk

This lecture will include a short introduction with examples of what can be done with this "primitive" device. The examples are from Central and South America. Will include hand's on with looms for everyone.

Members are encouraged to bring material for the weft since the point is color and contrast.

May 8, 2007

Annual Meeting

Program Ideas for 2007-2008 left over from previous year

Transparency

Field Trip to Lowell

M' and O's

Diaper and Dimity

Collapse Weave

Warp Faced Weaves

Kente Cloth

Round Robin with several weave structures

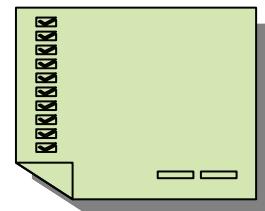
Officers 2006-2007

President	Jane Devlin
Program Chair	Ute Bargmann
Events Coordinator	Loris Epps
Secretary	Betsy McKee
Treasurer	Jo Ann Miner
Librarian	Eunice Smith
Library Assistants	Nancy Evans
NEWS Representative	Sylvia Deliso
	Karen Wittshirk
	Sheri Keshishian

**Any of these positions
are available, if
interested, please
contact Jane.**

ITEMS OWNED by the GUILD

- Incredible rope machine
- 4-shaft metal 8" Structo Loom
- 4-shaft Harrisville Loom
- 4-shaft Harrisville Loom
- 4-shaft 14" wooden Structo
- 4-shaft 18" wooden Structo
- Rug warp-various colors,
approximately 40 pounds
- 2-shaft wooden table loom
- Reeds
- Fringe Twister



*Please feel free to borrow
any of the library holdings.*



Guild News

Norma has a new address, it is 101 Pleasant Street, C103, East Longmeadow, MA 01025. She is now busy setting up her new digs and adapting to sharing her weaving and basket making space with her living and dining area. Norma any good hints you want to share about economy of scale would be greatly appreciated. Norma also has woven baskets for sale and she can also make baskets to your specification.

Jo Ann has set a record for weaving in one summer with the completion of 10+ baby blankets, a dozen or more towels, threading and winding on over 20 yards for the towel warp for Scottish Festival, and completing another summer and winter throw; including a one row major threading repair with 30/2 cotton that took about 6 hours. I dare you to find the repair area. A shuttle clap to Jo Ann.

Nancy M. purchased a 8-shaft 45" Macomber loom.

Lynette is free from the 3-time weekly physical therapy and is anxious to get back to weaving, jewelry making, and spinning. We can not wait to see some of newly produced items. *Betty's* home and studio was a major part of the *Tour of Homes in Longmeadow* in May with over 500 people visiting her home and studio. She had over 5 looms threaded and was busy weaving all day.

Ruth will be selling items at the Boston Weavers Guild sale in November in Weston, MA.

Both *Nancy Evans* and *Pat Billingsley* are the proud owners of Pioneer Looms. The Pioneer Loom -better & easier way to warp a loom and to be able to change the heddle threading without cutting the *Eunice* has been having some difficulties with her hands but she has managed to weave for Craft Adventure, complete 13 dist towels with some of the yarn from Wilbraham, and do some hand sewing.

Holiday Gift Exchange

We will again have our Annual Holiday Gift Exchange at the December meeting. Members are asked to bring an handmade item (it does not have to handmade), wrapped and without the member's name attached. The minimum value of the gift should be \$10.

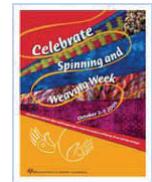
We will also make gift baskets for our members who can not attend the monthly meetings. More details about the type of items for the gift basket will be available at the October meeting

It is not too early to find that special gift!



Spinning and Weaving Week

October 2-8, 2006



Celebrate Spinning and Weaving Week! Join hands with fellow weavers, spinners, dyers and basketweavers around the world, enjoy the pleasure and the opportunity to learn, as well as to teach. Enjoy the thrill of seeing someone spinning or weaving for the first time.

PIONEER VALLEY GUILD—EXHIBIT



The exhibit will run during the month of October at Cooley-Dickenson Hospital in the gallery hallway off the main lobby.

There will be an opening reception on Oct. 5th, 4:30 to 6:30 pm.

Items will be available for purchase.

Maureen McGuinness is coordinating the sale. For more info, contact: Vick Patillo, apatillo@comcast.net, 413-218-8944; Barbara Elkins, barbara.elkins@yarn.com; or Maureen McGuinness, Gratitude123@hotmail.com, 508-978-1706.

Fleece to Fabric Day at Forest Park

Saturday, May 6, 2006 we took part in the very first Fleece to Fabric day at Forest Park in Springfield. Sylvia Deliso, Betsy McKee, Eunice Smith, and Jane Devlin were there to welcome people and show them how to weave on the table looms. Eunice also brought her floor loom and used it to demonstrate.

While the weather wasn't the best (on and off cloudy and rainy in the morning, but the sun came through for the afternoon) we all had a great time.

Many of the children were too young to weave on the table looms, but we were able to show some children how to weave. We all agreed we would like to take part in this day next year, however we will try to think of another weaving activity we can do with the younger children.



NEWS

NEWS 2007 will be held at Smith College, July 19-22.

We are responsible for

- the NEWS Brochure mailing (creating mailing list and labels by November and stuffing envelopes in zip code order by the end of December).

- Hanging the Gallery Show at Smith College in July 2007. We will need all members to help.

NEWS is a great opportunity to attend the conference. You can sign-up for 1 day, 2 day, or 3 days of the seminar. Workshops will also be available.

More information will be available at the October meeting about classes and workshops.



GUILD MEETING HOSTESS

September:	Pat/Laura
October:	Jo Ann
November:	Nancy Evans
December:	55th Anniversary Celebration
January:	Eunice
February:	Jane
March:	Hilda
April:	Monica
May:	Annual Meeting-Pot Luck



Yarn Sale-Members

Guild members can bring items for sale at the November meeting. All items will be on display for viewing until noon time and then the *buying* can begin until 12:30.

All items should be clearly marked with a price and ownership.

Members can also donate items to the Guild for sale with the profit going into the book fund.



Craft Adventure 2006

The following members entered items in Craft Adventure this year: Ute Bargmann, Jo Ann Miner, Betsy McKee, Eunice Smith, Loris Epps, and Weavers Guild of Springfield.

Prizes were awarded to:

Eunice Smith

Loris Epps

Ute Bargmann

Betsy McKee

Jo Ann Miner

Weavers Guild of Springfield

Please consider entering items into Craft Adventure in 2007. The categories are about the same from year to year. Why not plan your next weaving project and include an extra item to enter. The current entry fee is \$5 per item; the form has to sent in by the end of July; and the item should be delivered on the 3rd Sunday or Monday of August.

The Weavers Guild of Springfield wants to keep weaving and spinning as active categories. Remember we offer a prize for *First Time Entrant* or *Junior Weaver*.



This fall the Guild will celebrate its 55th Anniversary. We are planning a small internal celebration for our members with a luncheon. The cost of the luncheon will be approximately \$10 for members (the Guild will pick up the cost difference). There will be a short program and of course we will be making our holiday item. This year's

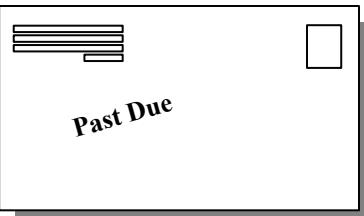
surprise item will be coordinated by Reva Greenspan and Sheri Keshishian.

Loris is coordinating the 55th Anniversary celebration. As part of this event Guild member are making a calendar with handwoven fabric swatches. There will be extra calendars for sale-these will be

make nice holiday, birthday, or hostess gifts. The calendar is a perpetual calendar so there is not a need to worry about the calendar going out of date. Please let Loris know if you would like to purchase one or several.

Please remember to wear your fanciest hat and most decorated gloves!

DUES



DUES!!!

IF YOU HAVE NOT PAID DUES your name on the envelope is highlighted in yellow. Please send your dues to Jo Ann Miner.

Dues are \$20.00 annually, due at the May meeting.

HAPPENINGS

Pioneer Valley Weavers Guild Exhibit: Cooley Dickinson Hospital. October, 2006

Vermont Sheep and Wool Festival, September 9 and 10, 2006, www.vermontsheep.org/festival.html

NY Sheep and Wool Festival, October 21 and 22, 2006, www.sheepandwool.com

24th Annual Monadnock Wool Arts Tour, October 7 and 8, 2006

To Enter or Not! (continued)

Express mail shipments (and associated cost). Make sure the piece is well woven, clean, finished, in good condition, and there are no loose threads hanging. Give your selection a title and write a brief paragraph about it. Include in your description information such as size, type of yarns, weave structure, type of loom used, and intended use. If it is yardage, make sure the ends are either hemmed or zigzagged so that they will not ravel. If it is clothing; then a proper pressing is essential (consider having the piece

professionally dry cleaned); seams finished in a professional manner; and pleasing accessories such as buttons, trim, etc. are appropriate for the piece.

Another consideration is to fully understand the extent of the signed entry form. Will your piece be photographed and put on a website and/or in a catalog? Credits—who does the credits for your work belong to are you signing away those rights. Who is responsible for lost, damage, or theft? Will you have to cover

this as a rider on your homeowner's policy or some other form of insurance? Is there a space on the entry form to list the expressed value of your piece for total replacement? Keep copies of the paperwork, entry form, shipping labels, and other research about the organization. Know who to contact if there is a question—have a specific name, telephone number, and email. Keep a photo of your piece taken prior to shipping and upon return, inspect your piece completely and close out your

Piece, and condition. Do not be afraid to ask the organizer to send you a photograph of your piece on display; many times these amenities are available for the asking.

Take a chance—Enter! Challenge yourself. If you do not have a piece ready for this year, learn the entry cycle and plan to have something ready for next the next cycle. Have fun!

Safe Haven—

www.safehavenalpaca.com

Safe Haven Alpaca Farm is located near Hampton, CT, featuring features a wide selection of Alpacas, bed and breakfast, and store.

Library Update

The Guild Library is an ongoing project and we will be working on the sample notebooks at the morning meeting in September. We will all make decisions about which samples to keep, categorizing the samples so that they are useful and serve as a technical, visual, resource and finalizing a uniform storage option.

The following items have been added to the Guild Library:

- Norwegian Tapestry—Moria Brekke Kopper, 2006 in memory of Emma Moulton
- 2006 CD—Doubleweave, Paul O'Connor, presented at the Complex Weavers Conference 2006.
- Donated by Ute a video by Madelyn van der Hoogt—*Handwoven Fabric: Structure and Pattern*.
- *Symmetries of Culture*—Dorothy K. Washburn purchased in memory of Pete Galletti.

The Guild owns 300+ books!



Study Group 2006-2007—LACE

The Study Group topic for this program year is Lace. Laurie Autio visited our Guild in November 2005 and gave a very detailed talk about lace with many samples to inspire us. The handout was generous and presented a thorough reference about lace. We will be using this handout as the

starting point for this discussion group. Ute has volunteered to serve as the discussion leader at the October morning meeting. The Study Group Coordinator for this project will be Laura Freeman. Members are expected to select a lace structure to sample, weave

enough sample so that each study group member will have one and then complete a project by the March meeting. It is hoped that the completed item will then be entered into Craft Adventure.



***Sample! Sample!
Sample!***

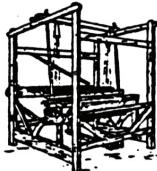
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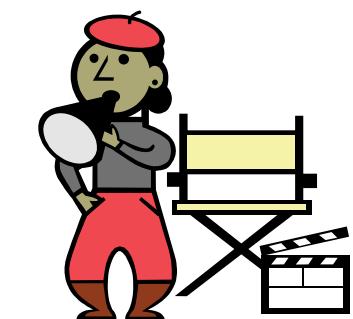
GUILD HISTORY

In the spring of 1951, two friends, Carolyn Stannis and Madeleine Aldrich, interested in handweaving wanted to meet others with the same interest, and perhaps start a weavers' guild. Several meetings were held at the YWCA. Summer came and it was decided if people were still interested they could get in touch with either person after Labor Day. Nothing happened until about November, when three stated a desire to proceed. All were notified and a meeting was held on the evening of November 30, 1951, at the home of Miss Madeleine Aldrich. Ten attended and voted to organize the Weavers Guild of Springfield (Mass.) and elected officers.

We continue to grow, demonstrate weaving and spinning, and foster the art of weaving.



ESTABLISHED 1951



Have you met our newest member? Her name is **Zirel Handler**, she lives in Stephentown, NY on a little farm that once her and her late husband's summer retreat from their SOHO residence. A farm is not complete without lots of animals and Zirel has many- Baba (sheep),

Chevy (goat), Penny (ASPCA dog), and Spooky (cat) and many visiting animal friends from her friend Wanda. She has joined our Guild with the support of Sheri Keshishian and Reva Greenspan.

She is currently attending Hill Institute and recently purchased a loom previously owned by Nellie Keshishian.

I am sure that many of you did not know that Zirel produced educational videos for the Anti-Defamation League

before she retired in 1998. Although, she says, she developed a distrust of media awards as a result of directing ADL's Dore Schary Awards for Student Films and Videos, she is proud of the numerous honors her productions received.

She also was recognized as an **Notable New Yorker** by Columbia University Libraries Oral History Research Office. Busy and active best describe Zirel. She served as Secretary to the

Stephentown Memorial Library, she spins and weaves. Learning about weaving is where Zirel has the greatest interest.

Zirel also volunteers at Hancock Shaker Village.

Please take some time to chat with Zirel and here about some of interesting travels and experiences in the Big Apple and around the world. Also ask her about being a Scrabble Master.

Another treasured addition to our Guild.