



Weavers Guild of Kalamazoo, Inc.
P. O. Box 2795
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Meeting of the General Membership MINUTES September 10, 2012

I. President Martha Reeves called the meeting to order at 7:02pm at the Portage Senior Center. She began with a few reminders, noting we would hold the Annual Wafa Meeting after the various announcements.

- At present there are more than 106 members with a few new ones joining at the meeting. The 2-4-1 program netted 17 old and new members, the most new members we have ever had. The 2-4-1 program will run until September 30 in case anyone has a friend who would like to join.
- She asked that people please remember to pick up the 2012-2013 Yearbooks from the table by the door if they had not already done so.
- Please pick up the Wafa postcards from the table by the door for members to take for distribution.
- Wafa Sale participants need to be members by September 30.
- The Michigan League of Handweavers membership dues of \$20 for one year and \$27 for two years are due soon. The membership year is September through August of next year. The MLH Conference is next summer in August. There is a pink pamphlet with a membership form by the door.

II. Announcements:

- **Ellen Colston**, Service Bureau, listed the new email address that goes to her directly: WGKservice@yahoo.com. Members can also use her personal email address.
 - S.W. Michigan Harvest Festival at Tillers is Sunday, September 16, 10:30 – 6 pm. Those wishing to demo spinning or weaving activities, let Ellen know.
 - Bowens Mills has several dates coming up, including October 14, Fiber Day; October 27&28 Civil War re-enactors.
 - Vicksburg Harvest Festival on September 21 – The Guild Spinning Study Group will be demonstrating fiber processing from the animal to the fleece, spinning and weaving.
- Martha introduced **Bev Munson** as our new Welcome/Newcomers leader. She gave a cheerful welcome to those new members and asked them to stand for recognition.
- **Kristi Chapman**, Librarian, introduced new members to the rich resources of our library which is full of books, magazines, videos and DVDs. She brought out all the Tapestry books from the Library for the Tapestry talk being given by Priscilla Lynch.
- **Lestra Hazel** reminded members that our Library also has the yarn store Webs' sample book housed in the Library.
- **Nancy Crampton**, Education Chair, talked about the Guild's Study Groups including the Virtual Study Group which only meets once at the end of the Guild year—just right for the independent minded weaver—when they meet to exchange the swatches created over the year. Each

participant receives one of each of the other swatches. This group will be led by Gail Ross who requests those interested to let her know by October 15.

- **Mimi Cummings** explained about the new MultiHarness Too group that is forming. Four members are interested and will have an exploratory meeting with Mimi in the later half of October to decide when to meet as two want to meet evenings and two in the afternoons. Please call Mimi if interested.
- **Anne Mehring** summarized the inaugural year of the Scholarship Program and announced that three Guild members who have received scholarships this year. They are **Juanita Manning-Walsh, Patty Reid** and **Gail Ross**. Patty and Juanita will meet with Judith Jones to share their fiber work from member Dawn Edwards' summer felting workshop at the December meeting. Gail's first choice workshop at the Manning School of Weaving was cancelled, so she will apply for a Swedish Weaving workshop in early 2013 with the blessing of the anonymous Scholarship panel.
 - Anne reviewed the dates for the coming year with applications due March 31, 2013 and projects done by the end of the 2013-2014 fiscal year.
 - She will offer a short application training workshop in mid-February, date to be announced at the February meeting.

III. Wafa Annual Meeting

- **Kristi Chapman**, 2011 Wafa Chair, reported that last year, 47 members sold their artwork and there were 1100 customers.
 - Wafa Treasurer Jill Strobel, who is transitioning into her role as treasurer, will publish the Wafa financial report in the next *Shuttle*.
 - This year's Wafa committee consists of
 - **Nancy Crampton** who will serve as co-chair with Kristi
 - **Cory Zann**, secretary
 - **Jill Strobel**, treasurer
 - **Jan Bowen, Judi Southwell, Esther James, Cathy McCarthy, Ellen Colston, and Deb Cline** round out the committee.
 - Kristi invites all interested to join them.
 - The next Wafa meeting is 6:00 before next general meeting.
 - The Wafa Sale dates are November 15, 16, 17, 2012.
 - All interested in selling at the sale need to have dues paid by September 30.
 - The Exemptions Committee will meet prior to the October and November meetings. *No exemptions will be given the day of the sale.* Nancy Thornton, Mary Ippel and Anne Mehring are the Exemption Committee.
 - The Sale Guidelines are posted on the website
 - Merchandise tags are for sale at each of the next two meetings. The form can also be downloaded from the website. Please use card stock, not paper if you print off the tags.
 - Postcards are available. Please take as many as you can distribute.
 - Remember the Children's Corner will have demonstrations. She may need volunteers working at the sale come to work in her area if it gets busy.
- **Judith Jones**, Workshop Committee Chair made some additional announcements.
 - The Members Table is on the side of the room. It is for the suggestion box, and any summer projects members brought in. Members brought some really good suggestions last year and Judith hopes to continue this again this year.
 - The Susan Wilson Crackle Weave workshop is posted on line and in the *Shuttle*

- There are 11 members registered. Susan will take up to 18 in the class, so there is room for more students.
- Members can attend the workshop at a discounted cost of \$50 through the Member Subsidy program. Judith calculated the hourly cost at that price comes to about \$3/hour—a real bargain.
- Workshop information and Susan's bio are posted on line.
- Judith has been in communication with Anne Field, New Zealand fiber artist who sadly had to cancel her Guild lecture and workshop at the Kalamazoo Institute of Arts due to ill health. Field was very sorry, saying this has been her life's work and she regretted not to be able to be here in the States.

IV. Program

Judith then introduced our evening's speaker, tapestry artist, Priscilla Lynch of Saugatuck, MI. Originally a nurse, Lynch has worked in the area of fibers for 40 years beginning with weaving and switching to fibers and wet felting in 1998. Her lecture on tapestry or discontinuous wefts, was originally developed for painters, and covered a review of types of looms, including what she termed the "Archie Bunker" of looms, the very functional if not pretty pipe loom and the various warping materials needed for a very strong warp such as seine twine, cable cotton or linen, all tightly twisted yarns that can withstand a high tension on the loom. She says shedding is optional, as she prefers to pick the yarn across the warp in blocks of colors.

She discussed the technicalities that affect tapestry including the design which may determine whether the piece is woven from side to side or from the bottom up or from the top down or whether from the back or the front of the piece. Tapestry design elements are always part of a grid-based structure. Other considerations would include styles based upon the culture such as Middle Eastern, Navajo, European tapestries.

Her discussion of a brief history of tapestry noted that the Cloisters Museum in upper Manhattan includes a fine collection of European tapestries, hung so as to be fairly easy to examine. Lynch's design and process discussion was all too brief, noting the use of graph paper and colored pencils. She would also use photographs to make a cartoon, which she likened to a paint by number exercise.

At the end of the lecture, Martha Reeves invited the members to look at the work samples Priscilla had brought, and the meeting concluded at 8:16 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Anne Mehring

Anne Mehring, Secretary