

- October
- 2007

- Next Meeting
- Oct 10, 2007

- 07-08 Theme ~
- *Reaching Out*

whatcom Weavers guild

Promoting community interest and education in textiles, and communication among fiber artists, with an emphasis on weaving.

REGULAR MEETINGS ~

September through June ~ Second Wednesday of the month
7:00p social time ~ short business meeting
show & tell ~ scheduled program

St. James Presbyterian Church (west side, lower level)
910 - 14th Street, Bellingham, WA

THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM

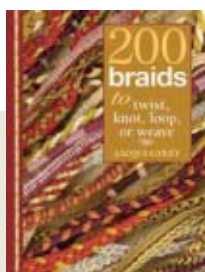
Antique & Collectible Showcase ~ We are influenced by weaving and fiber from all over the world, and it brought us to where we are today. In continuing with the theme of historical significance, members are invited to bring WOVEN items from their family's treasure chest, antique findings, or travels. We will have tables set up for display of the items, and members will be provided the time to describe the items to the group. Please bring in your woven items from as many different cultures as possible - perhaps you've traveled to Africa, Sweden, Central America, or Alaska and can bring in handwoven items to show and tell the members about the historical background. It will be a great hour into the woven past of our lives!

Kick off Partner Project ~ Some members may remember that we did this project about 5 years ago. We partner up with another guild member by drawing names out of a hat. The partners decide on a project and work on the project of their choosing for the year. The projects are brought to the June meeting for the final show and tell. It's a wonderful way to get to know other members, learn from each other new skills. Projects are fiber related and decided by the partners! It's really fun! Hope to see you at the October Meeting!

~ Nancy Bierke, Programs



2006 Fibers & Beyond Display.



From the Library ~

New acquisition: **200 Braids to Twist, Knot, Loop, or Weave**, Jacqui Carey, Interweave Press, 2007.

I'd like to thank Mickey Voglund on behalf of the Guild for her generous donation of books and periodicals for our library. I'll be going through and accessioning these items and will have them on display at the October meeting.

If there are any books or other materials you'd like to see in our library please let me know. I'm starting a wish list and am eager to obtain things you will use and enjoy.

And as always...please remember to return any over due library materials.

~ Kaea Morris, Librarian (360) 656-6692 wwgkaea@comcast.net



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Dates & Details ~

The Daytime Weavers:

No meeting scheduled at
press time

Annual Membership Dues:

Adult: \$20.00
Family: \$30.00
Student: \$15.00

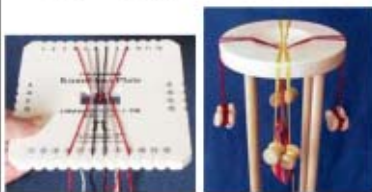
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President's Notes ~ Pat Fisher

How quickly we go from "summer's almost gone" to drifts of golden and red leaves falling onto the garden. How to get that wonderful autumnal color onto the loom?

It was great to see so many members, guests and new members at our September meeting. Thank you to Nancy Bjerke for the fun program to meet new folks, understand more about members we have 'known' for years and share what we have done in the past with our fiber-related passions and what we'd love to do in the future.

It was our first meeting for trying out our new theme for the year - Reaching Out. This time we reached out to our own members and guests.

Following that theme, our Workshop Coordinators, Barbara Snow and Karen Perry, described their plans for The Learning Curve - a series of mini-workshops to be run by individual members of our Guild. By the end of the evening, we already had several volunteers who are willing to share their expertise with a small group of other members. This has the potential to be a great addition to our regular workshops by visiting workshop leaders. We all have something special we can share with our group, something we're really good at and love doing - Spinning? Dyeing? Tapestry weaving? Crocheted flowers? Felted hats? Beading? Braiding? Basketry? Card making? A particular weaving pattern? The list is endless, and your fellow Guild members would love to find out how. Feel like running a mini-workshop for a small number of interested folks? Talk to Barbara or Karen, and stay tuned for news on the workshops!

Each month I'd like to focus on one of the aspects of Reaching Out in the newsletter, so expect more next month. In the meanwhile, thanks to everyone who took time to provide ideas and feedback both at the September meeting and afterwards. Those of us on the Board have ideas, and they come from you, so please keep them coming so we can make the Guild the fun place you want it to be. Want to attend a Board meeting? The calendar is here in the newsletter.

October is our month for the annual Fibers & Beyond Show and Sale. Thanks so much to everyone for picking up packets, postcards, signs and posters and volunteering yourselves, your cookies and your props for what promises to be a very successful event. As we all know - "it's in your hands".

See you at the Guild meeting on October 10th.

The Krakow Ethnographic Museum

~ Toby Smith

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With time spent in Krakow (Poland), Budapest (Hungary) and London this summer, I have been to a number of museums of interest to fibre artists. I am hoping to write about each one for the newsletter. I'll begin with the Ethnographic Museum in Krakow, Poland.

The city itself is an architectural jewel, with its inner city being a UNESCO world heritage site. Although Krakow is small, the Ethnographic Museum is the largest in Poland. On the ground floor are reproductions of the interiors of 19th century peasant houses. Included are the simple textiles of this class. There are woven coverlets, pillows, and linens made of plain linen, usually with red stripes. Spinning wheels and looms are in many of the rooms. Some interiors include the block print resist, indigo dyed fabric that became very popular all over Eastern Europe in the 19th c. There is also a display of printing blocks and fabric samples which remind me very much of Indian block printed fabric. This was often the occupation of itinerant Jews, who moved from place to place with their blocks. At the beginning of the century there were still several centres of indigo work in Eastern Europe. Then came the Nazis...

The second floor of the museum is a must-see for anyone interested in historical costume. There is a giant glass display case running the entire length of the floor, jam-packed full of manikins dressed in costumes from all the regions of Poland. This is the third time I have visited this museum, and I never fail to be riveted and mesmerized by this spectacular collection. It is stunning, with every item of both men's and women's clothing being highly decorated. There is something here for every textile lover: weavers, dyers, embroiderers, quilters, beaders, lace-makers, designers, felters, knitters, crocheters. While the regions of Poland have their ethnographic differences, they share a love of decoration and colour, especially red. This is not the clothing of the rich. This glorious riot of colour, design, technique, and texture represents primarily the everyday wear of poor and middle class peasants. There are also beautifully made examples of jewelry, leatherwork, and metalwork supporting the clothing, for example belts, elaborate belt buckles, and footwear. The museum also has a collection of costumes worn on special festive days, the inclusion of masks reflecting the synthesis of pagan and Christian beliefs. There are no fine silks, precious jewels, silver or gold here. But the linen, wool, cotton, leather, and common metals are handled with the skill and creativity of any accomplished artisan.

Baskets are in another area, as is an explanation of how linen is made. There are also looms, and a collection of toys used to train children, including a tiny loom. The book store has some very good books including an excellent bilingual one on regional costumes. This clothing collection is equal to the better-known ones in Britain (e.g Bath, V&A) but its focus on the lower and middle peasants provides an interesting window into a class that is not usually represented in museums.



Krakow Ethnographic Museum, woven and decorated items.



Weaving loom in the Krakow Ethnographic Museum.

Workshops, Festivals & Exhibits ~

Whidbey Weavers Guild Program October 4, 2007 ~

Until 1940, the oldest pile weaving known to exist was a fragment from the 15th century. That year, Soviet anthropologists excavating a frozen grave in Pazyryk, Siberia found a pile carpet in a block of ice that was carbon dated to 5th century B.C. With this discovery, the age of the oldest known pile weaving slipped back two thousand years. The famous, and much photographed, "Pazyryk" carpet is on display behind refrigerated glass in St. Petersburg's Hermitage Museum. Hundreds of scholarly papers have been written on everything about this carpet from its weaving technique to its dyes, to its design elements and possible origins. Fred Lundahl, retired diplomat and co-owner, with his retired diplomat wife Sharon, of the rug and textile shop "Music for the Eyes" on First Street in Langley, WA had an exact replica of the Pazyryk carpet woven in Azerbaijan this year. He will bring this replica, along with some other comparative pile weavings, to the Guild's October meeting to discuss the "oldest rug in the world" with interested Guild members. Whidbey Weavers Guild meets from 10a-2p on the first Thursday of the month except January, July and August. October meeting is at Quartermaster Building Fort Casey (near Keystone Ferry).

Seattle Weavers' Guild Annual Sale ~

Oct. 25, 5-8p / Oct. 26, 10a-8p / Oct. 27, 10a-5p
Scarves - Baskets - Jewelry - Rugs - Linens - Garments - Gifts - Tapestries - Children's Items - Hats - Bags - Yarn - Blankets - Pet Accessories - Household Items - Demonstrations
This year's sale will be held in Bloedel Hall at St. Marks Cathedral (1245 10th Avenue East, Seattle, WA). Drive around the back of the cathedral to find the Hall on the lower level. Parking is free.

Peace Arch Weavers & Spinners Fibre Flair ~

Sat., Oct. 27, 10a-4p
The Peace Arch Weavers and Spinners 24th Annual Fibre Flair Exhibition and Weaving Sale will feature a silent auction, fun fashion show at 1:30p, door prizes, demonstrations, refreshments, and (of course) beautiful fiber creations for sale. Admission is free. Ocean Park Community Hall, 1577 - 128th St., South Surrey, BC.

Whidbey Weavers Guild Sale ~

Fri., Nov. 2, 11a-6p and Sat., Nov. 3, 10a-5p
Uncommon Thread, Whidbey Weavers Guild annual sale, will feature more than 2,000 fiber art items for exhibit and sale at Greenbank Farm, 765 Wonn Road (SR 525, Whidbey Island). Expect to see colorful, fine craftsmanship in handwoven and hand-dyed clothing and accessories, linens, rugs, holiday decorations, handspun yarns and knitting, felting, handmade paper, basketry, jewelry and other gift ideas. Members will model and demonstrate their weaving, spinning and basketry techniques. www.whidbeyweaversguild.org or whidbeyweavers@hotmail.com.

Maiwa Textile Symposium ~

Tradition & Revival

Maiwa Handprints' 2007 symposium will deliver historical and inspirational lectures during October at the Vancouver Museum's MacMillan Space Centre Auditorium. For details visit www.maiwa.com/symposium/lectures.html

(Maiwa Handprints, founded in Vancouver, Canada in 1986 and run by Charlotte Kwon, endeavours to support traditional craft through an ethical business model. They support the production of embroidered, blockprinted, handwoven, and naturally dyed textiles throughout a number of countries. The staff of the Maiwa retail store ensure that the purchasing public knows about the culture of the artifacts, the co-operative, and the living conditions of the artisans.)

Drum Carding Workshops ~

On October 27 & 28 the Langley Weavers & Spinners Guild is hosting two workshops by Jill Laski, owner of Ashland Bay Trading Company: The ABCs of Colour on October 27 – colour blending on the drum carder; and Blending for Effect – how to blend colour, texture, and fibre combinations. Cost for each workshop is \$110.00 plus a \$15 supply fee. We have space to accommodate members of other guilds, so if you are interested, contact Ann Embra 604-534-9292 (ann_embra@telus.net).

Langley Weavers & Spinners Guild Sale ~

Nov. 3-4, 10a-4p
Hosting their 36th Annual Artisans' Sale: Beyond Fibre, this Langley Weavers and Spinners Guild event features juried weaving, knitting, spinning and felting work of its members. Work from several local artisans will also be included - wood turners, potters, sheepskin producers, jewelers, silversmiths, clothing designers, carvers, photographers, and bakers. Buy all kinds of fiber arts supplies in the Wool Room, and enjoy refreshments in the Tea Room while watching spinning and weaving demonstrations. \$2 admission. Fort Langley Community Hall, 9167 Glover Rd., Fort Langley, BC.



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Cultural Exploration of Costume and Adornment ~

~ Toby Smith

Imprints on Cloth: 18 Years of Field Research Among the Miao People of Guizhou, China, by Sadae and Tomoko Torimaru, published by Akishige Tada, 2004

There are approximately seven million Miao living in China, about four million in the southern province of Guizhou. While the Chinese population is overwhelmingly Han, the Miao are an ethnic minority which has managed to maintain its cultural integrity over the millennia. Although generally a poor people, they are rich in what sociologists call cultural capital. There are several sub-groups among the Miao. Altogether, they are famous for their silver filigree headresses, elaborate hairstyles, pleated and embroidered clothing, their patterned indigo dyeing, and their shiny cloth. This book, by Sadae and Tomoko Torimaru (mother and daughter), is the result of



Miao in traditional costume.

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eighteen years of studying the Miao.

The book focuses on the following topics:

- extracting colour from the indigo plant
- dyeing with indigo
- making indigo-dyed fabric shine using a water buffalo hide bath and beating, or egg whites, pigs blood, smoking, or using a roller
- wax-resist indigo dyeing
- and an explanation of many distinctive Miao patterns

Indigo is so important to the culture of the Miao that they grow two or three species of it to make sure that regardless of weather conditions in any given year, they will always have indigo.

The Miao have no written script. Their design motifs, which are a form of communication across generations, are made by using wax resist on fabric and then dyeing in indigo. Images used are often plants and animals. These figures convey cultural heritage and protect the wearer.

Although *Imprints on Cloth* has little text, it has detailed descriptions as well as sequential photos of the various different processes of making shiny cloth from their own bast fibres. This can involve twenty to thirty stages.

Overall, the book is wonderful to look at. If you are a visual person who is more interested in textile books that have gorgeous coloured photos rather than lots of words, have a look at *Imprints of Cloth*. Maiwa carries it as well as ***Spiritual Fabric*** by Sadae Timaru which focuses on the weaving techniques of the Miao. Tomoko Timaru will speak at the Maiwa symposium (www.maiwa.com), on Saturday October 13th at the Vancouver Museum.

Notices & Classified Ads ~

FOUND! ~ Randi Catarin picked up a pair of sunglasses after the last meeting. Please call her to claim them, 647-5970.

FOR SALE ~ Oak Fireside loom. 60" 8 harness w/2 reeds. Asking \$2,800 or will trade for smaller loom and some cash. Margie Thierry 360-756-6077 or margarethierry@hotmail.com

WANTED ~ Dyer seeks use of dye studio. Will pay \$\$\$ or dye yarn in trade. Margie Thierry 360-756-6077 or margarethierry@hotmail.com

Classified Ads ~

Classified ads are welcome from both members and non-members. Classified ad rates have recently been updated and approved by the WWG board.

Members (non-commercial) = Free

Members (commercial) = \$5.00

Non-members (non-commercial) = \$5.00

Non-members (commercial) = \$7.00

WWG Board Meeting Schedule ~

The monthly WWG board meetings are typically held on the last Wednesday of each month from 7-9p at NW Handspun Yarns, 1401 Commercial St., Bellingham. All members are welcome to attend these meetings. 2007-2008 schedule - Oct. 17, Nov. 28, Jan. 30, Feb. 27, Mar. 26, Apr. 30, May 28, & Jun. 25 - Note that no meeting is scheduled for Dec.



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© Surabhi Ghosh, *A Pictorial Atlas of the Northern Shore of the Milky Ocean.*

Fabric Identity ~

Fall 2007: October 1 - November 30, 2007, Western Gallery
WWU, Bellingham, WA www.westerngallery.wvu.edu

Fabric of Identity investigates the representation of identities from a number of different perspectives, taking into account historical, political and cultural contexts, as well as the influences of the subjective views of the artists. The curators consider how identities are formed and how they shift over time and through place. Textiles woven into clothing and furnishings as well as fiber/multi-media installations form the visual focus of the exhibition.

The Historical Component: Curated by Jacqueline M. Atkins, PhD from the Allentown Museum of Art, this part focuses on a group of US, British and Japanese textiles representing national values during WWII. [This private collection of 30 textiles originally comes from the traveling exhibition *Wearing Propaganda. Textiles on the Home Front in Japan, Britain and the United States 1931-1945* which Atkins curated for the Bard Graduate Center for Studies in the Decorative Arts, Design and Culture, New York].

The Contemporary Component: Curated by Sarah Clark-Langager, Director, Julia Sapin, Art Historian, and Seiko Purdue, artist, this part focuses on how individuals express their own personal thoughts and embody national values in times of war and peace. Contemporary artists also examine and sift through stereotypes of gender and nationality so to make new identities and to suggest ways to build bridges between cultures

Symposium in conjunction with *Fabric of Identity*: The public symposium will be held on Thursday, October 18, 2007, 4 - 5:30 PM in SMATE Lecture Hall #150. Each participant will present a 20 minute, illustrated talk. Jacqueline Atkins, Curator, will discuss the historical textiles of the World War II era selected from the original show of *Wearing Propaganda...* and will emphasize how Japanese parents build their children's identities with such clothing (especially the boys in wartime). Tomoko Torimaru, artist and teacher, will focus on the richly diverse textiles of the Miao People, who live among and explore the culture of sixteen other races in the Guizhou Province of southwest China. Leila Wice, visiting historian of Japanese visual and material culture at Lewis and Clark College in Portland, will draw on her study of the politics of appearances in early-modern and modern Japan to consider the place of militarism in constructing national and other identities. Toby Smith, former professor from Fairhaven College, will tie together issues raised by the exhibition and the presentation.