

- o December
- o 2007

- o Next Meeting
- o Dec. 12, 2007

- o 07-08 Theme ~
- o Reaching Out



*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 - 14<sup>th</sup> Street, Bellingham, WA

## THIS MONTH'S PROGRAM

### ~ *Bison Bookbinding & Letterpress*

Bison Bookbinding & Letterpress is a community-based, eco-friendly print shop located in Bellingham. Kevin from Bison will introduce members to the centuries-old tradition of letterpress printing. Bison supports the continuing evolution of printmaking, using soy-based inks, low-impact solvents, handmade and recycled papers, antique pressroom machinery, and cutting-edge photopolymer plates.

Bison creates a variety of artistic, high quality and unique hand-printed materials including custom handmade papers suitable for printing, watercolor painting, calligraphy or any of your artistic endeavors. They also provide book restoration services and an array of hand bindery options for limited edition books, photo albums, and all manner of texts.

In addition to the presentation, we will draw names for our partner projects. Don't worry if you miss the opportunity to draw a name, Nancy Bjerke will make sure everyone has a chance to participate.



Bison's Equipment

#### Library News ~

Thank you for reviewing the Shuttlecraft Monograph list that was circulated at the last meeting. This will help in planning library purchases. In addition to purchases, the library is always pleased to receive your book donations. Often items requested for the library are out of print and you may have a spare copy that you would like to pass along to the library. Kaea will be developing a library "wish list" so that members will know which specific books are needed. Please contact Kaea ([wwgkaea@comcast.net](mailto:wwgkaea@comcast.net)) about donations.



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**KNIT NIGHT every Tuesday 5:30-8pm**

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**www.NWHandspunYarns.com**  
1401 Commercial Street, Bellingham

**(360) 738-0167**  
Hours: 10-6 Mon.-Sat., 12-4 Sun.

## Dates & Details ~

### The Daytime Weavers:

Thursday, Dec 6<sup>th</sup>, 10:30a  
Hostess: Kathy Sano  
21 Shorewood  
Bellingham, WA 98229  
(360) 738-7085

~ The Daytime Weavers  
meets year round on the first  
Thursday of every month.

### Annual Membership Dues:

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

Make checks payable to  
Whatcom Weavers Guild. Mail  
to Whatcom Weavers Guild, P.O  
Box 403, Bellingham, WA 98227

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## President's Notes ~ Pat Fisher

Happy Holiday season to everyone - I hope your Thanksgiving was a warm and wonderful time, with time spent with family and friends.

Welcome to the new members who have joined us after enjoying our annual show. We always ask new members what your artistic interests are, but somehow forget to ask what you would like to do as a part of the Guild! We are always looking for volunteers to share with the many tasks which make us a busy and dynamic group, and this year is no exception. For all members, we are currently looking for someone to take over the Secretary's position on the Board, as well as the position of Member-at-Large. Both positions are ideal for anyone wanting to get involved without a lot of experience in the Guild or weaving - if you are interested, or know of anyone who may be, please call or email me at 715-3360 or [pat.fisher@comcast.net](mailto:pat.fisher@comcast.net). It's an easy way to learn more about us and help shape the future with your ideas.

Thank you to Nancy Bjerke for a great October program. Chloe French was a wonderful speaker on Chilkat weaving. It was another excellent session for our program theme this year on the traditional arts. We were all spellbound as Chloe wove together the tribal lore of her people with the basics on their weaving and decorative skills.

Our Learning Curve program of mini-workshops is fast taking shape. Look for more news from Barbara Snow and Karen Perry on the many opportunities coming your way.

The season moves swiftly, so it's back to the loom and knitting needles to get those gifts made! Good spinning and weaving and knitting and beading and quilting to everyone!



2007 Fibers & Beyond

## Education & Outreach~

I would like the guild's assistance in compiling an on-going local resource list. Those people on the list would be available to discuss and demonstrate weaving or other fiber arts in order to educate the public. For those who prefer one-on-one opportunities, I would also like the list to serve as a "help" service for people in the community who might have a loom in the basement and just want to know if it is worth restoring or are in the middle of knitting their first sweater and can't figure out the pattern.

Requests for demonstrators or assistance might come from historical, farm, or home school organizations, or maybe even your neighbor.

The list would not be available to the general public. Requests would be made to the education chairperson who would then, in turn, contact you to make further arrangements. If you feel strongly about the perpetuation of our craft and educating the public, this is one way you can contribute. Please contact me if you are interested in being in the roster. Pamphlets will also be made available to guild members about this service if you should receive inquiries from the public. Margaret Magic, 360-733-3312 [margaretmagic@hotmail.com](mailto:margaretmagic@hotmail.com)



2007 Fibers & Beyond



A palette of Pearl Cotton



## Say you saw it "here" ~

Remember those days when the Sears or Montgomery Wards catalogs would arrive before the holidays and you would long for that Barbie carousel kitchen? All those wonderful toys were ready and waiting to be yours.

Well, Halcyon Yarn of Bath, Maine has generously sent the guild an ample supply of their most recent yarn and equipment catalogs just in time for your holiday wish list. Yarn, fiber, knitting, crocheting, and of course weaving supplies are all included. See their ad above for another offer. And pick up your catalog at the December meeting.

# Workshops & Exhibits ~

## The Learning Curve's First Workshop!

### *Nuno Felting Workshop by Donna Hunter*

Date: Saturday, January 18

Time: 10 am to 3 pm

Location: Donna's studio in Blaine (map will be provided)

Cost: \$35 per person including materials

Limit: 5 people but a second day can be arranged if needed.

Felt a scarf of wool fiber on silk, cotton or rayon fabric using wet felting "nuno" method. Various colors of wool, fabric and embellishments, as well as equipment, will be available. Bring your lunch. Tea and coffee will be provided. Contact Donna to register at 332-5526 or [gndhunter@telcomplus.net](mailto:gndhunter@telcomplus.net)

## Madrona Fiber Arts Winter Retreat ~

Feb. 14-17, 2008,

Hotel Murano (formerly the Sheraton) in Tacoma, Washington

[www.madronafiberarts.com](http://www.madronafiberarts.com)

Madrona Fiber Arts was started by fiber enthusiasts who wanted to bring great teachers to the Northwest. The goal is camaraderie, creative energy, and the sharing that is generated among students and teachers by combining incomparable teaching, small classes and informal settings. This years instructors include ~ Nancy Bush, Chris Conrad, Anita Luvera Mayer, Judith MacKenzie McCuin, Syne Mitchell, Stephanie Pearl-McPhee, Karin Skacel, Ruth Sørensen

## RAGS 2008 Wearable Art Sale and Juried Gallery, March 6, 7, & 8, 2008

Mercedes-Benz of Tacoma, 4001 E. 20th, Fife, Washington

Deadline for entries: December 11, 2007

RAGS is a juried wearable art competition and sale that benefits the YWCA's domestic violence prevention and intervention programs. Produced entirely by volunteers and underwriting donations, RAGS offers guests an opportunity to view and acquire fabulous wearable art and accessories created by artisans from across the country. Contributions and a portion of all sales help the YWCA keep abused women and children safe, healthy, and self-sufficient. In 2007, RAGS raised \$80,000 for the YWCA! For prospectus:

<http://www.ywca.org/atf/cf/%7BA04CEF24-3831-4F82-95A1-F89685756112%7D/Prospectus2008.pdf>



## HGA Learning Exchange ~

*Marie Lorgen, WA HGA Representative*

To learn from expert weavers and spinners and exchange ideas and samples with other weavers and spinners from around the world, the HGA Learning Exchange (LX) is a great way to go. The LX program consists of study groups that you participate in from the comfort of your home or studio. The program is open to all levels of weavers and spinners.

When you sign up, you are assigned to a group where you have an experienced weaver or spinner as the group coordinator. You will receive a packet with your sample assignment and also contact information for a mentor, in case you need some advice. You then have about four months to document and produce about 6 - 8 samples. When done, you ship your samples and your documentation to your group coordinator for evaluation. In return for all this, you will receive samples, with their accompanying documentation and evaluation, produced by the other members of your group. It is a great way to learn from your fellow weavers and to build up sample books for you to refer to in your pursuit of excellence.

To learn more about the program, go to: <http://www.weavespindye.org/pages/?p=hgalx.html&loc=1-50-00>. or just go to <http://www.weavespindye.org>, and follow the links.

To sign up for a Learning Exchange, contact the LX Weaving Chair, Christine Spangler at [spanglertextile@comcast.net](mailto:spanglertextile@comcast.net). or the LX Spinning Chair, Lana Schneider at [lanaden@comcast.net](mailto:lanaden@comcast.net).

**Convergence Note:** Registration for Convergence opens December 17, 2007. The Delegate Registration Book is included in the Fall issue of Shuttle Spindle & Dyepot and will soon be available online at <http://www.weavespindye.org>.



**Beach Basket Yarns & GIFTS**

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360-371-0332 [beachbasketyarns@verizon.net](mailto:beachbasketyarns@verizon.net)  
WWG members ~ mention this ad for 10% off!

# Women Weavers in the Industrial Revolution ~ Toby Smith

I've been reading a book entitled *Women Workers and the Industrial Revolution 1750-1850* by Ivy Pinchbeck [Virago Press 1981]. This book was first published in 1930 and may well be the first book on women's labour history ever published. At first I was reading it just for the history of handloom weavers but became absolutely riveted to the descriptions of women's work in all areas including agricultural and mining. This is horrific reading and is based on a wide range of primary research from a number of sources. Pinchbeck is interested in this period because this is the time where machines enter all industries. For those of us interested in weaving and spinning, it is interesting to consider the lives of handloom weavers and spinners as they are forced to compete with machines.

Often times a man's salary included the work he would get out of everyone in the family unit. Family members were not paid independently. In other places, sometimes women would make a fraction of what male handloom weavers made; other times output would be the only deciding factor in rate of pay.

Conditions of handloom weavers in the 18<sup>th</sup> century make us seem like a bunch of cry babies now. I weave when I feel like it and don't when I don't. But when weaving made the difference between survival and starvation, any child tall enough to reach the pedals was pressed into work. Often times linen weavers sat at pit looms for 18 hours a day because the moisture made the linen easier to weave. Even small children spent their lives in these damp dark rooms all day, every day.

Physicians at the time found that handloom weavers had a number of physical problems that were environmental. For example respiratory ailments and physical deformities were common. Some physicians felt that handloom weavers were the most unhealthy of all trades. As awful as conditions were, the weavers were pressured to compete with machines. Needless to say, this could only go badly for the weavers.

The spinners were equally badly off. As the spinning Jenny developed it was able to produce faster, finer, and more consistent yarn than most spinners, thereby eliminating the primary source of income for vast numbers of women. During this hundred year period, the weaver went from being a professional, respected skilled worker to being a frantic, desperate worker, for whom poverty was merely a precursor to obliteration.

After reading this book I remember those men and women who took such pride in this beautiful skill. Not only do I feel satisfaction in seeing the web form before my eyes, but I also feel that somehow this is an homage to those who came before, who had pride in their skill and power in their guild.



Woman Weaving c. 1900

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## Interweave's Guild Special ~

Interweave Press is pleased to offer guild members special pricing on magazine subscriptions ~ valid through January 2008. New, renewal and gift subscriptions all qualify for this special offer ~ \$19.95 for a one-year subscription. Just call 1-800-433-6451 and mention code WGLD7 to get the special rate. To find out more about the magazines Interweave Press publishes, visit [www.interweave.com](http://www.interweave.com)

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## Notices & Classified Ads~

**F&B Committee Post Sale Meeting** ~ Thursday, January 3, 2008 at 7pm the F&B committee will have its wrap up meeting in the Horizon meeting room at St James Church. For those who cannot make it, please email your thoughts on 'things that went well, things that need improving and ideas for changes'. ~ Pat Fisher [pat.fisher@comcast.net](mailto:pat.fisher@comcast.net)

**Membership** ~ The new Membership Directory was available at our November meeting. If you haven't picked one up yet, be sure to see me at the December meeting to get yours. If you notice any errors, I do apologize, and please let me know so I can send out a correction to all our members. *(Note: directory updates and corrections will be e-mailed directly to the membership. Personal contact information will not be listed in the newsletter).*

At the December meeting, please look for the clipboard on the entry table where we would like you to jot down the year you joined the guild. If it has been so long ago that you can't remember if it was fall of 1973 or 1974 (*Gee! That would be 33-34 years!*), don't worry - just give us your best guess. Thanks, Randi Cattarin [cmark25@qwest.net](mailto:cmark25@qwest.net)

**For Sale** ~ Like new Ashford Elizabeth spinning wheel -- \$350; Lazy Kate & 7 spools -- \$40; Niddy Noddy \$7; Very large warping reel -- \$40; Yarn scale -- \$10; McMoran balance -- \$15. Please call Ruby at (360) 384-2798.

**For Sale** ~ Raw wool for sale. Large selection, from fine spinning wool to coarse wool for rugs or felting. Just \$1/pound! We are also selling our locally raised and grass fed spring lambs, so if you want lean and tender lamb meat for your holiday meals or freezer, get in touch with us. We also do professional shearing, so give us a call for your spring shearing, 360-927-0399.

**Wanted** ~ Interested in purchasing the felted piece of art with a llama or alpaca that was hanging in the front entrance at the F&B sale. Contact Jenni Jimmerson at 220-0350 or [jennij@secfirstinc.com](mailto:jennij@secfirstinc.com)

**January Daytime Weavers** ~ Daytime weavers will meet at Joan Cunningham's January 3, 2008 at 10:30. After the holidays, call her at 360-733-8820 for directions. Bring something to work on and your lunch.

**Bring your mugs** ~ Save on disposables and bring your own mug/coffee cup to the meetings.

**2008 Wool Show** ~ Winter is a great time to be about thinking wool - as in "What are You planning to create for the 2008 Wool Show at the NW Washington Fair?" We will welcome more entries next summer! ~ Marcia Ford

**Artist Co-op** ~ Guild members who are interested in participating in the Ferndale Art Co-op that is being formed may contact Barbara Ingram at [bing@clearwire.net](mailto:bing@clearwire.net) for further information.

**Magazine Back Issues** ~ Looking for back issues of Spin Off and Threads to add to my collection. Contact Julie Barnes, [jahbarnes@msn.com](mailto:jahbarnes@msn.com) or 360-380-9203.

**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 - Jan. 30, Feb. 27, Mar. 26, Apr. 30, May 28, & Jun. 25 - Note that no meeting is scheduled for Dec.

## The Learning Curve

The Learning Curve is a new program created to provide an opportunity for guild members to share their expertise with other members. These mini workshops will be given my guild members for guild members.

This January the Learning Curve will be kicked off with a nuno felting workshop given by Donna Hunter (see newsletter's "Workshops" for details).

Contact workshop co-chairs, Karen Perry (360-724-4812) and Barbara Snow (360-676-4379) to brainstorm ideas about a workshop you could teach.

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