

- o February
- o 2008

- o Next Meeting
- o Feb. 13, 2008

- o 07-08 Theme ~
- o *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

Small Looms ~

Inkle, Rigid Heddle, Tapestry, Card/Tablet, Table & Frame ~ what do these words have in common? They are all types of looms or methods of weaving that can be portable and are a great introduction to weaving for "wannabe" weavers. Come to our next guild meeting on Wednesday, February 13th to hear about these looms and specific techniques used to create simple or complex woven items. There will be hands-on opportunities as well.



Images from 2007's F&B Sale.



In Memory of Lee Kraft ~

Lee Kraft, long-time guild member and dear friend to many, passed away on Saturday, January 19, 2008. Lee lived her life on her own terms, with gusto and zest. Open to adventure, and with a persistent curiosity, she enjoyed spinning, weaving, basketry, gardening, camping, traveling, bicycling, kayaking, and just about anything else that sparked her attention. Her friends will attest to this diversity - her passion for life. She cared for and valued these friends as much as they did her. Although she died of the effects of cancer, she never allowed it to define who she was or what she did. She had inner strength and grit, and she was really having too much fun to give in to the disease. Her daughter Jann, son Paul, and husband Ken will host a celebration of her life in early spring, a favorite time of her year. We all miss her. We all loved her.



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Dates & Details ~

The Daytime Weavers:

Thursday, Feb. 7th, 10:30a
Hostess: Marcia Culver
1001 - 16th St.
Bellingham, WA 98225
(360) 734-9032

~ 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

WWG Board Meetings:

Board meetings are usually held
on the last Wednesday of each
month at 7p at NW Handspun
Yarns, 1401 Commercial St.,
Bellingham. All members are
welcome to attend. 2007-2008
schedule - Feb. 20, Mar. 26,
Apr. 30, May 28, & Jun. 25.

President's Notes ~ Pat Fisher

Naalbinding - have you heard of it? Do you practice it? For me, it's the start of my 2008 resolution to learn some new and interesting ways to work with yarn. Our program theme this year is Traditional Crafts. My personal expedition into tradition has started with naalbinding - an ancient form of Viking knitting, sewing or knotting lengths of spun yarn into a fabric, using increases and decreases to form shapes, such as hats, socks, mittens and purses, using a large needle carved from whale bone or wood (mine is whale bone). Later in the year, I want to find one or two traditional weaving patterns to practice and make something exciting on my trusty 50-year-old floor loom. How are you doing with your resolutions?

Thank you to members who have volunteered to host mini-workshops. Our first one, on nuno felting, by Donna Hunter, was held earlier in January and was very successful. Thanks Donna, especially for hinting that you may host another later in the spring. Also thanks to Mary Oates, Linda Dinus, Sondra Rose and Barbara Snow for volunteering their time for more mini-workshops.

For those members looking for more advanced workshops, we will have new announcements at the February meeting. Weaving is rapidly increasing in popularity so the workshop leaders we want to bring in are scheduled well in advance, but we now have news for some exciting future dates.

January always seems to be a bad month for the Guild - in previous years we cancelled meetings because of bad weather. This January meeting, our own Chris Conrad, scheduled to speak on her wonderful kakishibu dyeing, came down with this year's mid-winter bug. Never fear! We are working to schedule her presentation for later in the spring. We all hope you are fit and well again, Chris. In the meantime, our ever-resourceful program coordinator,

Nancy Bjerke, provided us at the last minute with the chance to share our weaving and crafting plans and wants with each other. The result? A successful 'reaching out', as a number of members teamed up to help each other learn more about their individual crafts. Several members suggested we plan to have video presentations in our back pockets for any time there is a problem with our planned program - our librarian Kaea Morris is investigating setting this up.

Our February program features a panel of Guild members demonstrating and talking about different forms of small loom weaving - don't miss it! See you then.



Yarns ~ Books ~ Notions ~ Gifts
Knit & Crochet Classes

Hours ~ Mon-Sat 10a-5p & Sun 11a-4p
7620 Birch Bay Drive, Birch Bay, WA 98230
360-371-0332 beachbasket yarns@verizon.net
WWG members ~ mention this ad for 10% off!

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 are given my guild members for guild members.

Drafting Tricks Workshop

Cost: \$15.00

When: Saturday, February 23, 2008, 10 am

Instructor: Sondra Rose

Contact: 360-676-6078 or sondrose@earthlink.net

Place: Sondra Rose's kitchen table, located in the house with the white picket fence on the corner of Electric Ave. and Kansas Street (1748 Electric Ave., Bellingham)

Supplies: Bring a sack lunch. Coffee and tea will be supplied.

Description: Would you like to learn how to weave overshot with only one shuttle? You just need to turn the draft. And how about putting on one long warp, weaving the first scarf in Bronson Lace, say, and then a second one in Rosepath, perhaps, without changing the threading! You just need to blend the two drafts.

This workshop (no looms, just pencil and graph paper), will consist of three parts:

- A fairly quick review of reading drafts and doing drawdowns.
- Learning how to turn drafts. In most cases a turned draft requires more than 4 shafts, but I will show you at least one example of a pattern that originally requires 6 shafts, but when turned requires only 4.
- Learning how to blend drafts. This definitely requires at least 6 shafts.

Kumihimo Workshop

Cost: \$35.00

When: Saturday, April 26, 2008

Instructors: Linda Dinus and Katherine Kinnear

Contact: Linda (dinus@verizon.net) or Katherine (kkinneaer@aol.com)

Place: Registrants will be called about materials, location and time as the workshop date nears.

Description: Learn Kumihimo using simple equipment. You will complete a necklace featuring your cord and one-of-a-kind lampworked beads which will also be demonstrated at Katherine's studio.

Basket Workshop

When: Saturday, May 3, 2008

Instructors: Mary Oates and Linda Dinus

There is one opening left in the workshop, and we will take names for a waiting list. A \$30.00 deposit is required by the March general meeting to cover the supplies to be ordered. Call Mary (360-671-9229) or Linda (360-966-4027) if you have questions.

Contact Guild 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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Kumihimo ~

Kumihimo: Kumi (to plait) + Himo (string or cord) = Kumihimo, plaited cords, braids (as defined by BraidersHand on their website www.braidershand.com)

This April, you'll have a chance to learn the art of Japanese braiding in one of the guild's Learning Curve workshops (see info at left).

Jacqui Carey wrote in her book *Creative Kumihimo*, "Kumihimo has been an integral part of the Japanese culture for many centuries, encompassing both qualities and function and decoration...braids were utilized in all walks of life..." These braids can be used as embellishment, belts, ties, necklaces, etc.

If you're interested in reading a bit about kumihimo and other braiding techniques, check out Jacqui Carey's book *200 Braids to Twist, Knot, Loop, or Weave* (Interweave Press, 2007) available in the Guild's library. Or visit the BraidersHand website at www.braidershand.com - they are one of our illustrious newsletter advertisers. Be sure to tell them you read about kumihimo and BraidersHand here!



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Workshops & Exhibits ~

Whidbey Weavers Guild Meeting

February 7, 2008, 10:00 am

Fort Casey, Quartermasters Building

Guest Speaker Anita Luvera Mayer presents "One Woman's Journey"...a talk told through clothing. "Travel one woman's creative journey over the past thirty-five years through the presentation of garments that mark her passages, her dreams and her celebration of reaching age seventy five. It is one woman's struggle to define her role as a mother, wife and artist thru the clothing she designs. Each piece has its own story and every story reflects who we are as women finding our own identity."

Madrona Fiber Arts Winter Retreat ~

Feb. 14-17, 2008, Hotel Murano, Tacoma, WA

www.madronafiberarts.com

Fibrefest International ~

March 7 & 8, 2008 at the Ag-Rec Centre,
Abbotsford Exhibition Park, Abbotsford, BC

The 6th Annual Fibrefest International will be held at a new location ~ the Ag-Rec Centre, Abbotsford Exhibition Park. For more information visit <http://www.fiberfestinternational.com/newsite/index2.htm>

WARP 2008 Annual Meeting ~

March 7-9, 2008 Casey Conference Center,
Whidbey Island, WA

An opportunity to learn about this organization.
www.weavearealpeace.org

Skagit Valley Weavers Guild ~

March 10, 2008, 6:30 pm

Allen Methodist Church, 16775 Allen W Rd., Bow, WA
Syne Mitchell will speak to the SVWG during their March meeting. Syne has a monthly podcast talk-radio show about weaving. Check it out at www.weavecast.com

Best of the Northwest Spring Show ~

March 14-16, Qwest Field & Event Center, Seattle
www.nwcraftsalliance.com

Northwest Basket Weavers Spring Retreat ~

March 26-30, Port Orchard, WA on the Kitsap Peninsula. www.northwestbasketweavers.org

Convergence 2008, Textures in the Tropics ~

June 22 - June 24, 2008, Tampa Bay, Florida
www.weavespindye.org

Northwest Regional Spinners Association ~

June 5-8, 2008, Willamette University, Salem, OR
Annual conference information, www.nwrsa.org

ANWG 2009 Weaving Waves of Color ~

May 28-31 2009, Gonzaga University, Spokane, WA
Post Conference Workshops: June 1-3, 2009

La Conner Quilt & Textile Museum ~

The La Conner Quilt & Textile Museum has added more to their 2008 event schedule. Seating is limited at the programs - be sure make reservations, 360-466-4288.



Selbuvotter:

Norway's Favorite Mittens~

February 9, 2008, 1-2:30 pm

Discover the rich history and traditions of Norway's iconic black-and-white mittens. Terri Shea will share her rediscovery of Selbu knitting and discuss her book, *Selbuvotter - Biography of a Knitting Tradition*, currently in its second printing. *Biography of a Knitting Tradition* follows the story of these beautiful mittens and gloves, from folk tradition

to major regional industry to national symbol and passes the tradition on with over 30 patterns taken from actual antiques.

A Celebration in Clothing: One Woman's Journey ~

May 31, 2008, 1:00 pm

Anita Luvera Mayer, a weaver and textile artist, will discuss her struggle to understand the creative process, identify inspiration and how she learned to translate those concepts into her life and her clothing. This presentation is in conjunction with her exhibit, "Creative Clothing: One Woman's Journey" from May 14 through July 13, 2008.

Using Japanese Kimono Fabrics ~

July 16, 2008, 2-3:00 pm
In conjunction with the exhibits, *Path to Edo* and *Sashiko Old & New*, exhibit curator, Miwako Kimura, will share her techniques on how to make beautiful and functional items and accessories using kimono fabrics. The exhibits, *Path to Edo* and *Sashiko Old & New* runs from July 16 through Sept. 21, 2008. Ms. Kimura will give an opening day guided tour of both exhibits at 12noon. The Kimono Workshop will follow and a sampling of Japanese food will end this perfect day at the Museum.

Sashiko Stitching Workshops ~

July 19, 2008 (see museum website for times)
Learn Sashiko stitching with Kazuko Yoshiura, whose works will be in the exhibit *Sashiko Old & New*.

Sashiko literally means "little stabs" and is a form of decorative reinforcement stitching from Japan. Traditionally it was used to reinforce areas of wear or to repair worn and/or torn places with patches. Today, this running stitch technique is more often used for decorative purposes in quilting and embroidery, and has become an art form to be respected and admired. The white cotton thread used on traditional indigo blue cloth gives sashiko its distinctive appearance. The oldest surviving item of sashiko-stitched clothing is the robe of a Buddhist priest that was donated to a temple in 756 AD.

The La Conner Quilt & Textile Museum is located in the Gaches Mansion, 703 S. 2nd Street, La Conner, WA. It is the *only* Quilt Museum in Washington State and one of only 12 quilt museums USA. Visit www.laconnerquilts.com.

Weaving as Resistance ~

Toby Smith

In a chapter entitled "The Masterless Way: Weaving as Resistance" in the 1987 book *Women and Craft*, Faith Gillespie discusses the life of a professional weaver. She views weaving as a form of resistance. Although she romanticizes the good old days of weaving and spinning, Gillespie still has an interesting point to make. Generally there are three ways that weaving for one's livelihood is a form of resistance.

One has to do with power. In spite of the poverty and uncertainty of her life, choosing to work in this ancient craft where the producer is independent of factories and bosses ("the masterless way") functions as a kind of political protest to the soulless employment of the modern industrial age. Weaving, for Gillespie, is a form of "dissent against the dehumanizing patriarchal forces of control and domination..." It is also an act for the "reclamation" and "reparation", of women's power. She rankles at the drudge and alienation of industrial work, specifically the textile industry that has replaced the profession of handloom weaving. Gillespie believes that it is this loss of skill and control in the workplace that contributes to our loss of a sense of control in the larger social and political world.

For Gillespie, weaving is also a form of resistance to the empty consumerism that fuels our economy and dominates our material world. I don't think you have to be a professional weaver to understand this. Struggling with thoughts of elitism, Gillespie notes that not all of her customers are wealthy. Many are people who value the aesthetic/social/political pleasure of having a few well-crafted items over the endless accumulation of stuff, "They are refusing the more and [the] cheap. They want something that speaks to them, something beautiful in their daily lives." I think this is one of the benefits of the WWG sale. It is very rewarding to see the pleasure people derive from buying, handling, or just plain looking at the wealth of thoughtfully produced items in the sale. In this sense the WWG is our own little revolutionary cell against the forces of blandness, against the degradation of sweatshop labour, against empty consumerism.

Gillespie also sees weaving as a form of resistance against the erasure of women's history. She says that women's labour and the telling of women's lived experience have been left out of written history. No argument there. People who write the history of women have to be creative thinkers and diligent researchers. They have to look in unusual places, make inferences, dig deeper, and look harder than someone writing men's history [king, war, king, war, king, war]. It is interesting then, when Gillespie suggests that the record keeping of weavers is a form of conversation among women over time. Of course not all weavers have been women, and drafts are often anonymous. But there are many examples of drafts being found in letters between women. As well, when a draft is found in a time and place where women did most of the weaving, it is probable that these records are the track of women's labour and women's lived experience.

And so, next time you sit down at your loom, think of it as a little act of resistance. You are, according to Gillespie, a warrior in the struggle against the artlessness and exploitation of modern production. And don't forget to keep those records. Future women historians are counting on you.

HGA Scholarships & Grant ~ *Marie Lorgen, WA HGA Rep.*

The scholarships and grant listed below are available through HGA. For complete descriptions, rules and details go to www.weavespindye.org.

**HGA's Convergence 2008 Tampa Bay,
June 22 - June 28, 2008,
Student Assistantship Grant Program**
Postmark deadline: April 3, 2008.

This is a chance for students who are currently enrolled in Fiber Arts programs to participate in Convergence through an assistantship program. For more details visit ~

http://www.weavespindye.org/pages/assistantship_procedure.html

HGA and Dendel Scholarships

Deadline: March 15 of each year

This is for students enrolled in accredited undergraduate or graduate programs in the U.S., its possessions, or Canada. Over \$4,000 in scholarships will be available for furthering education in the field of fiber arts, including training for research, textile history, and conservation. Scholarships are awarded based on artistic and technical merit rather than on financial need. For more information ~

<http://www.weavespindye.org/pages/?p=hgaschol.html&loc=1-48-00>



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24" 4-shaft table loom,
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PLUS near new~
Louet Roving Carder,
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noddy, \$15
and a not-so-new
Gossip Wheel, \$160



**Structo
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20" 4-shaft loom,
flat steel heddles,
1 reed, \$135



Rasmussen
24" 4-shaft loom,
flat steel heddles,
1 reed, \$280

Contact Julie Barnes, 360-380-9203 or JAHBarnes@msn.com

Notices & Classified Ads ~

For Sale ~ Gilmore 46" Jack Floor Loom. Made of solid maple with a sectional beam (can be a regular beam also) and comes with an 8 dent reed. Works great! **\$600.**

Contact Elinor Tapio, etapio@earthlink.net or 360-466-1138.

For Sale ~ The Great Purge! Time to purge the collection and eliminate duplicate items (*see color ad above*).

- Glimakra "Pysslingen" 24", 4-shaft table loom with detachable legs, texsolv heddles, 1 reed (this is Glimakra's first table loom), **\$375**
- Rasmussen (this is a perfect workshop loom), 24", 4-shaft table loom, flat steel heddles, 1 reed, **\$280**
- Structo Artcraft Loom, 20", 4-shaft loom, flat steel heddles, 1 reed, **\$135**
- Louet Roving Carder, fine cloth, near-new condition, **\$295**
- Ashford Hand Cards, fine cloth, near-new condition, **\$40**
- Kromski Niddy Noddy, large size, mahogany finish, **\$15**
- Gossip Wheel, 2 flyers & 2 bobbins, needs replacement footman, **\$160**

Contact Julie Barnes, JAHBarnes@msn.com or 360-380-9203.

Ferndale Fiber Special Sale ~ Hi spinning folks, I am offering a special sale price on beautiful white wool combed Top. This is beautiful soft (25 micron) domestic wool. I purchased a large amount and can pass along the savings to our local spinners. It spins great, dyes beautifully and felts like a dream. Price is **\$12 per pound.**

Contact Kathy Green, kmgreen196@msn.com or 360-384-0169.

For Sale ~ Nilus Leclerc, solid maple, 60" in the reed, 4H, 6T, heavy canvas aprons attached to front and back beams. Comes with one 10 dent reed. Overall dimensions are: 68" wide, 45" High, and 42" deep. Need to move it. 1950 Union loom. 2H, 2T, 36", counterbalance, 2 reeds. Includes rag cutter, hook, 6 shuttles. **Make offer.** Located in Stanwood, WA. Pick up only. Call Judy Howe, 360-445-9032.

Impressive Felt ~ Check out this website <http://strongfelt.com>



Yarn from 2007's F&B Sale.

Your assistance is needed ~ Randi Cattarin requests assistance from someone who could come early to monthly meetings, 6:30pm, to help her set up chairs & tables. Contact Randi at cmark25@qwest.com or 360-647-5970. (Randi also shares a special Thank You to Judy Blount and her husband who have done most of the set up for the last two meetings. Thank you! ~ Randi)

Embellishment! ~ For those who were interested in the Embellishment Round Robin and didn't get on the list, we will start a second round robin. Sign up sheets and instructions will be at the next meeting.

Knitting Round Robin ~ The knitting round robin still needs 4 more participants. In the end you will have a long scarf with examples of creative knitting from you and four other knitters. The sign up sheet and instructions will be at the February Guild meeting.

Fibers & Beyond Wrap Up~

The wrap-up meeting for the 2007 Fibers & Beyond Show and Sale was held at St. James Church on January 3, attended by the majority of the F&B committee, plus interested Guild members.

Each committee member submitted a report of their area, calling out things which had gone well and actions recommended to make improvements at the 2008 event.

The gross sales total, including tax, was \$20,837.19. Of this, \$16,339.13 was distributed to individual artists and \$2,883.37 was returned to the Guild to offset the costs of setting up the event. The balance goes to the State for sales tax. Subject to final reconciliation, approximately \$350 income will accrue to the Guild.

The Show was considered a success by all present at the meeting, with special commendations for the design of the hall and product layout, speed and accuracy of check-in and acceptance, smoothness of cashiering process, better access to the refreshments area, popularity of the education section, new layout of the concierge area, attractiveness of postcards and posters, great Entertainment NW article, improved control of the jewelry section by new placement in the layout.

Recommendations for improvement for 2008 included change of location and timing of check-out, further re-think of the jewelry section to improve security more, consideration of renting a security guard during the sale, additional lighting and mirrors, remove hazard of displaying rugs on the floor, increase number of members scheduled to assist at the sale (including jewelry artists to staff jewelry section), enhance layout/decoration of area immediately to right of entrance to the hall, set up a message board at the concierge table.


A copy of all reports will be placed in the library files for anyone interested in reading further. Got any other comments? Please let me know.

Many thanks to all Guild members who participated in the event and made it the success that it was and to the committee members for their hard work. We have received many positive comments from those who attended the event; such comments as:

- "I always come to the Guild sale - there's such a wonderful selection of good things to buy".
- "I saw the great article in Entertainment NW - I'll be there!"
- "Well done - it looks wonderful!"
- "You are such a talented group of artists - I always find good stuff!"
- "How can I join?"
- "...the quality of everything is excellent..."
- "My husband really enjoys the education section".


Couldn't have said it better myself! Thanks again to all who participated, and let's make 2008's event even greater!

Pat Fisher, pat.fisher@comcast.net
Chair, Fibers and Beyond Show and Sale, 2007



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Items from the 2007 F&B sale.

How to Buy Used Looms ~

Why is the weaver selling this loom?

- If she's really a weaver, chances are that she is upgrading to a larger or a more complex loom and may be a great source of help.
- If she is someone who does not really weave, beware! She may not be weaving because her loom is not fully functional. She is frustrated and is giving up.
- If it is part of an estate, make sure that the loom is functional and all of the parts are there. Take an experienced weaver with you to see it. Be particularly careful of a disassembled loom as it may be missing parts.
- Be cautious of a "beautiful piece of antique furniture" masquerading for a functional loom. The antique dealer may not know how to weave or even tell if a loom is functional.

In what shape is this loom?

- Check the obvious for use and abuse. Was this loom stored in the non-air-conditioned/unheated barn for many years? What is the state of the wood? Of the metal parts?
- It may be hard to tell how well the loom will weave. Putting a warp across the width of the loom may be the only sure way to know. It is always possible to draw up a contract where final sale depends on this kind of check.

Who made the loom?

- Is the manufacturer still in business if you need replacement parts?
- Be particularly careful with homemade looms that were never used. There may be a reason for that. I saw a loom once with one side exactly 1" longer than the other.
- Also, be careful with homemade looms whose maker isn't available to make replacement parts.

What are you getting with this loom?

- It may sound like a great deal until you realize the extras that you have to buy, either because the current owner wants to keep them or because they have been lost. Make sure that, when everything is added up, it wouldn't be better to buy a new loom.
- Check carefully what else may have to be replaced--rusted heddles, rusted or bent reeds, etc. Add those to the cost of the loom when comparing.
- Are you getting and paying for something you do not need? A sectional warp beam may be an expensive add-on that you will not use and may even get in the way. Compare the cost of the used loom to that of a loom without the extra add-on.
- Watch out for similar "deals" like boxes of unusable yarn (I don't bring home those moths!).

Member Joan Cunningham had great timing when she offered up this relevant article clipped from an old magazine. Thanks Joan!

Nuno Felting! ~

January 19th was the first Learning Curve mini workshop presented by Donna Hunter at her home studio. Four lucky participants (Elinor Tapio, Karen Perry, Karen Kaufman and Julie Barnes) got to enjoy a day of nuno felting as the snow fell on H Street Road in Blaine.



Above are pictures of our wonderful workshop. Where's Elinor you ask? She was behind the camera, and was gracious enough to share these photos of the fun day.

Karen Perry, a happy felter!

Upcoming Programs ~

Here is a glimpse at what's in store for us for the rest of 07-08.

- March ~ Kakishibu (*tentative*)
- April ~ Terri Shea discussing Selbuvotter knitting & workshop
- May ~ Our annual swap sale
- June ~ The BIG reveal of partner projects

Condolences ~

Guild member Marilyn Monahan's mother, Kit Kleist, passed away Sunday, Jan. 20th at age 98. Kit was known as a "source of indefatigable energy and curiosity." As Joan Cunningham said, "(she) was a pistol...(and) was an original woman's libber. We owe who we are to people like her and to Lee (Kraft)!"

Donations in Kit Kleist's memory can be made to the Whatcom Hospice Foundation, 800 E Chestnut St # 1C, Bellingham, WA 98225.