

- o January
- o 2008

- o Next Meeting
- o Jan. 9, 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

Chris Conrad presents Kakishibu ~ fermented persimmon juice

Chris Conrad spent 1 1/2 years in Japan studying kakishibu. Used in Japan since before the 9th century, it is little known in the western world. Originally used primarily on wood and paper, kakishibu is coming into its own in the world of textile art. Requiring no heat or mordants, it is "dye friendly" while providing dynamic design potential.

Chris will have samples of kakishibu works as well as a slide presentation profiling Japanese artists and kakishibu production. Kakishibu products will be available for purchase at the meeting or visit www.kakishibui.com.



Ikkanbari. Tojidera Fleamarket, Kyoto, Japan



Kakishibu dyed scarves at Fibers & Beyond 2007.

Bison Bookbinding & Letterpress Tour ~

Thank you to Kevin and Carly of Bison Bookbinding and Letterpress for their wonderful presentation of the historical aspect of bookbinding and letterpress. We enjoyed the historical stories and current fact that they are still using machines that are over 100 years old in their business. Their printed paper examples were beautiful! As a follow up to this presentation, we are invited to tour Bison's location, and see these machines in action on Saturday, January 12 at 11:00 am. Location is at 1420 N. State Street, Bellingham, across the street from Harley Davidson. Please RSVP to Nancy Bjerke at Nancy@nwhandspunaryns.com or 360-201-5141.



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Dates & Details ~

The Daytime Weavers:

Thursday, Jan. 3rd, 10:30a
Hostess: Joan Cunningham
55 Strawberry Point
Bellingham, WA 98229
(360) 733-8820

~ 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

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President's Notes ~ Pat Fisher

Another year departing and a whole new year starting! Like me, are you planning new ventures in your favorite art or craft? Are learning more about a new craft? Did you join the Guild with great intentions of weaving for the first time, or weaving more, or starting to spin your own yarn, or venturing away from weaving to a new fiber-related craft? Or are you a Guild member for many years, looking for inspiration, or the chance to help others?

It's a great time of the year to sit, think and make those decisions. In the Guild you are amongst many who can help, inspire, give advice, share stories and experiences, and who are looking forward to hearing your thoughts and knowledge. And we have an excellent library when you still need more answers.

Following our theme of 'reaching out', our education Board member, Margaret Magic, is collecting a list of members who are ready to spend one-on-one time with members, both new and longstanding, who are looking for advice in their craft. Got the loom and lots of intentions, but not quite sure how to get going? Talk to Margaret and she can put you in touch with someone who would love to share experience.

Our traditional arts program continued in December with a great presentation by Carly James and Kevin Nelson, owners of Bison Bookbinding and Letterpress. We learned lots about the history of paper-making and printing, from thousands of years ago when the Chinese used clay characters and ink, through the mediaeval times of monks hand-printing bibles, through 15th century Johan Gutenberg starting a printing press with lead letters, to modern times. Printing of early books in Latin was challenged by Martin Luther, printing in German, giving rise to underground printing in French, German, English. 1638 saw the first printing press in the USA, in Massachusetts. Carly explained that Bison uses letter press and cutting machines from the late 19th century, as well as contemporary computers and software. Did you know Benjamin Franklin was a printing apprentice at age 12? Did you know paper is made from cotton and abaca (the inner fiber of banana leaves?). Carly and Kevin's talk and samples of their work inspired us to ask for a guided tour of their business, which has been set for Saturday, January 12th. So come one, come all, bring friends and family - Nancy Bjerke can provide more information.

I am very happy to announce that Gloria Lebowitz has volunteered to join your Board as Member-at-Large. She will be our researcher and contact with outside organizations and also your spokesperson on the Board if you have particular issues to bring up. Thank you Gloria, and welcome to the Board.

January - our first 2008 'daytime weavers' on the 3rd, the 2007 F&B wrap-up on the evening of the 3rd, first Guild meeting on the 9th, tour of Bison Bookbinding and Letterpress on the 12th, first mini-workshop on the 19th, first 2008 Board meeting on the 30th. Busy month! Welcome to the weavingest New Year!

Tradition in your Hands ~ Julie Barnes

Selbuvotter: Biography of a Knitting Tradition

By Terri Shea. Published by Spinningwheel LLC, Seattle, Washington, 2007.

ISBN: 978-0-9793126-0-1

Preserving history and tradition as it related to the fiber arts ("women's work") intrigues me to no end. Whether it is seeing the tools used and items created out of necessity (socks, sweaters, coverlets) at a museum or reading about how the skills and patterns were passed down in families, I am always amazed at how a laborious task is transformed into something beautiful with ingenuity and creativity leaving the makers mark.

Terri Shea's book, *Selbuvotter: Biography of a Knitting Tradition*, leads the reader through the development of this fashion of knitted mittens and gloves in Selbu, Norway. While Terri explains the facts about the knitting tradition, her style of writing invites the reader to explore the fine details of these lovely mittens.

Marit Guldseth Erntstad, the "Mother of Selbu Knitting", took an 1856 challenge to knit something new and created a tradition of knitting two-color mittens with very specific design attributes. Terri works her way from the origins of the style through the history of the cottage industry that grew from Marit's inaugural pair of mittens

The cuff, stitch pattern, thumb gusset, pointed fingertip and thumb, patterned thumb, yarn, needles, gauge and size, Terri leads the reader through the important stylistic features that make up the Selbu mitten. Beyond the basic anatomy of a mitten, Terri has painstakingly reconstructed over 30 mitten patterns drawn from the mitten collection at the Nordic Heritage Museum in Seattle and *Everyday Knitting* author Annemore Sundbø's personal collection. Terri delightfully introduces the patterns by describing them in detail and sharing her impression of the original piece ~ "These mittens cast a spell over me."

Selbuvotter: Biography of a Knitting Tradition is more than a fine record of a knitting style; it is a wonderful documentation of patterns created by Selbu knitters in Norway. This book and the patterns within are a gift from Terri allowing knitters to carry on the Selbu tradition.

Visit www.selbuvotter.com for more information.



Selbu Mittens, c. 1940. Belonged to Amandus Larson (Julie Barnes' great uncle). Note the pointed fingertip/thumb and patterned thumb that matches the mitten ~ a hallmark of the Selbu mitten.



A palette of Pearl Cotton



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Workshops & Exhibits ~

Madrona Fiber Arts Winter Retreat ~

Feb. 14-17, 2008, Hotel Murano (formerly the Sheraton) in Tacoma, Washington

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 year's 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 & Juried Gallery

March 6, 7, & 8, 2008

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

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!

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. This annual event draws fiber enthusiasts from all over BC and Northwest Washington to enjoy a interesting slate of workshops, demonstrations and fashion shows. Vendors from BC and Alberta sell everything from raw and processed fiber, weaving tools and supplies, knitting yarns and lovely finished products. For more information visit

<http://www.fiberfestinternational.com/newsite/index2.htm>



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La Conner Quilt & Textile Museum ~

The La Conner Quilt & Textile Museum has a wonderful schedule of exhibits, programs and events for 2008. Seating is limited at the programs, so be sure to call the Museum for reservations, 360-466-4288.

Quilt Scene Investigators ~

January 26, 2008, 1-3:00 pm

What do the Stitches, Fabric and Patterns of Your Cherished Quilt Reveal? American Quilters Society appraiser Ann Bodle-Nash and quilt restorer Anne Dawson will evaluate your quilts

antique to new. Learn the identity, age and how to care for your treasures. You will also pick up a bit of quilt history along the way. Guests are invited to bring quilts to be examined ~ pre registration is required.



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. What started as a dare became an icon of Norwegian knitting and created a snowball of knitting traditions across the North Atlantic. Terri Shea will share with us her rediscovery of Selbu knitting and discuss her new 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. Every aspect of business today can be found in the story of Selbu Knitting.

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. Anita conducts workshops and gives lectures throughout the United States and Canada. She is the author of numerous books and her articles appear in major fiber publications. This presentation is in conjunction with her exhibit, "Creative Clothing: One Woman's Journey" from May 14 through July 13, 2008 at the La Conner Quilt & Textile Museum.



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.

Textile Museum, Budapest ~

Toby Smith

This is a little textile museum off the beaten track in Budapest, Hungary. It consists of about six good sized rooms and focuses on weaving and fabric printing. This museum is not geared to the usual tourists and has no English translations. Nevertheless, it is enchanting and is clearly looked after by people who are deeply committed to maintaining this little island of knowledge. The museum was closed when I visited, but the museum keepers were thrilled that I had sought them out. Generously, they turned on all the lights and let me wander at my own pace.

The museum seems to have been developed in an old weaving and decorating mill. A number of sample books are open, showing wonderful examples of their designs over the period the mill operated. There are some old machines for weaving, knitting, spinning and carding. They seem to come from the period of early industrialization. They look handmade with a combination of wooden and hand-forged metal parts.

A huge hand-built carding machine from 1788 is made up from dozens of little natural bristles. It is a great icon from the period of invention that fed mass production.

There are small-scale models of all aspects of the textile production process, for example early fabric printing with the processes of indigo dyeing, block printing and mangling. There are also small figures dressed in the styles and with the fabrics that were typical to the period, and maybe came from this factory. I was also attracted to the collection of very early, handmade shuttles with their crudely carved designs and initials.

There is a whole room devoted to the history of printing designs on fabric, including many samples. There is yardage of 19th century indigo-dyed fabric hanging from the ceiling like blue waterfalls. As well, they have a silkscreen operation set up, showing the process of printing with a two-screen design. This is side by side with examples of the most modern, mechanized equipment. I really liked this museum. There was

something very human: its scale and its displays. This museum does not have the bureaucratic feeling of large institutions with their bored guards and hard rules. I liked its human touch; both in the exhibits and in the friendly museum workers who let me wander undisturbed through two centuries of textile production.



Textile Museum, Budapest.
Notice the indigo-dyed cloth draped from the ceiling.

Special Thank You ~

Fascinating, just fascinating! Each month I am thrilled to receive Toby Smith's newsletter submissions. Her articles and photos share a glimpse of the textile and fiber arts world that most of us will never see first hand.

If you visit a museum or want to share a wonderful fiber arts discovery you have made, send the details to me for the WWG newsletter. No need to compose fancy prose ~ just send me the details, and I'll compose the story for you! E-mail Julie Barnes at info@whatcomweaversguild.org.



Weaving Loom, Textile Museum, Budapest.
Notice the spinning wheel at right.



Weaving Looms, Textile Museum, Budapest.

