



FIBER TO FINISH GUILD NEWSLETTER

February 2016



From the Weaver's Bench

Sometimes it is really hard to justify how much fun I have! I volunteered to teach a tapestry weaving class for the Artful Threads exhibit at the Harvey House Museum. Little did I know what was in store for me. The first day Claudia, her husband, and her youngest son, Alessandro arrived. Rowena was also in attendance. So we warped our looms and wove away. My students learned various techniques in tapestry weaving. We focused on horizontal and vertical lines, then "pick and pick" and a meet and separate technique. It was fun to see what colors

were selected and how they were used.



The second day, Rowena was in attendance.

She'd woven vertical and horizontal stripes as "homework" earlier

in the day. Her progress was good. So we went to the next technique.

Just as we were diving in, we had another guest, a 12 year old middle school student. Celeste said she'd woven before on cardboard looms. So I demonstrated changing sheds on a frame loom and the rest, practically, was history! Celeste proved to be a fun and capable weaver. Once she learned a technique, she was hesitant to go on to the next one. How alike we all are — we master one step and want to linger in accomplishment. But she was pushed to the next technique. She fretted about some of the things that seem obvious to adults but her mother and I reassured her. She made suggestions for colors and we wove them. Then she took over the tapestry! She wanted a setting sun in the tapestry. So I walked her through building a shape in a sunshine yellow yarn. Again she fretted about the rate in which we formed the shape. It was okay.



February 20, 2016 Meeting – 12:30 p.m. at the First Baptist Church in Belen at the corner of 4th and Becker Streets.

We want to encourage the children, grandchildren and their friends to attend a program on three dimensional wet felt making. All materials will be provided by the guild. Members are encouraged to bring newspapers, plastic sheets, dishwashing detergent and a plastic container (like a dishpan or shoebox.)

Refreshments will be served at 12:30 and the program will begin at 1:00. Rubber gloves, aprons and rolls of paper towels for clean-up are also needed.

Upcoming Meetings

March 19, 2016 Meeting – Special presentation of **The Ec-lec-tick Senior Players at the First Baptist Church in Belen**, at the corner of Fourth and Becker Streets. Refreshments at 12:30 and the program at 1:00. Show and Tell will follow the program. Be sure to bring recent projects to share!

(cont.) Although we had no purple yarn at the museum we "created" a kind of purple by plying red and blue yarns together. She was delighted with her work!

She went on to make suggestions about how she wanted it to be woven — "pinks and purples in the sky," she said. It was so much fun to work in collaboration with another person. Her fresh eyes changed the entire tapestry sample. She paid me \$3 of her own money for her lesson.

For me, it was a priceless afternoon.

Keep your hands warm in fiber,
Myra Chang Thompson

Future Programs:

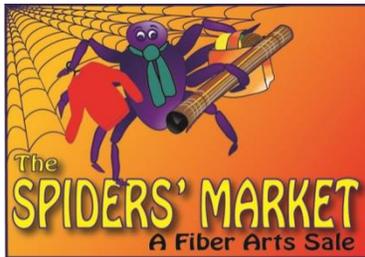
The Harvey House Museum has asked us to help them pack and patch costumes in their collection. It is a fun and valuable activity. You will get to “go behind the scenes” of the museum to see their costume collection. Please give feedback to Myra, Terri or Sally regarding this project. It might take more than one date.

Coming Events:

Spider's Market Friday, March 18 and Friday, March 19

at the Albuquerque Garden Center 10120 Lomas Blvd.

Albuquerque, NM
from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.
each day. Free



parking and free admission! Come and see what is being done in fiber and purchase supplies! This is the annual spring show and sale for Las Arañas Spinners and Weavers Guild.

Colors of the Southwest Show sponsored by the Albuquerque Fiber Arts Council, this spring exhibition is open to all fiber artists. It is a free event. There is no entry fee, parking and admission are also free. The deadline for submission is March 1. Go to <http://www.fiberartsfiesta.org> The exhibit will be held on Friday, April 1 10 a.m. to 7 p.m. and Saturday April 2 from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. The exhibit will be held at the Albuquerque Garden Center at 10120 Lomas Blvd. In Albuquerque. An opening reception to meet the artists is planned from 4 to 7 p.m. on Friday, April 1.

Get firsthand information about the inspiration and knowledge guild members gain at the 2nd Annual **Interweave Yarn Fest**. The Yarn Fest is on March 31, April 1 and April 2 in Loveland, Colorado. Guild members who plan to make the trek north include Myra, Terri, Carla and Chip!

Introduction to Spinning Yarn with Becky Arnold

Description: Learn the basics of the relaxing, meditative, and rewarding art of spinning your own



yarn. This class covers spinning and plying with drop spindles and spinning wheels. It will also include different ways to prepare wool for

spinning and how to finish the yarn. Drop spindles will be available to borrow during the class. For the second class, bring a spinning wheel.

Dates & Times: Friday, 2/19/16 & 3/4/16, 9:00 am – 4:00 pm (with a break for lunch) Location: Raymond Sanchez Community Center, 9800 4th St NW, Albuquerque

Fees: \$180 + \$10 materials fee

Teacher: Becky Arnold – A few decades ago, when Becky was sure there was no room in her life for yet another hobby, spinning caught her off guard. Since then, spinning wheel, spindles, and fiber have found their way into her home and her heart.

Questions: Wheels may be rented. For more information about the class or to rent a spinning wheel, contact Becky at rjstitch@gmail.com.





Tie Dye Designed for Beginners by Crescentia Stonacek

Description: You are invited to explore the colorful world of tie dye. We will use fiber reactive dyes and learn to fold and clamp cotton fabric to produce interesting designs. Our mordant will be soda ash. I will provide various test fabrics, dyes, gloves, etc. You may bring a cotton shirt or scarf of your own to dye; please wash in hot water and detergent, no fabric softener or dryer sheets ahead of time. Wear clothing or an apron that you don't mind staining.

Date and time: Friday March 4, 2016 from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m.

Location: Raymond Sanchez Community Center, 9800 4th St NW, Albuquerque Fees: \$45.00 + \$8.00 materials fee

Cres is a fiber artist who loves color. Her tie dyed creations can be seen at our guild events. She is also an excellent jewelry and accessories artist. Her interests lie in knitting, crochet, bead, wire, felting, spinning wool and fur, dyeing, sewing and embroidery.

Registration: Send your name, address, phone number, and email address to cres.stonacek@gmail.com

Questions? Call 280-4550 or cres.stonacek@gmail.com

Transparency Weaving with Myra Chang Thompson

Description: Transparency weaving is a category of sheer textiles which feature decorative patterns created by an inlay technique. The open structure of fine, widely spaced warp threads together with inlay threads of another material create a sheer "transparency weave." Its origins are from Finland. The publication of Doramay Keasbey's book *Sheer Delight—Handwoven Transparencies* captured the attention of weaver and patron alike in 1990.

Students will arrive with a pre-warped loom of tow linen. The design and execution of the transparency weaving will be given by examples and demonstration. Specific instruction will be given in the beginning and ending of different weft pattern inlay threads to create a flawless look that is "transparent." Students should bring wool weft yarns in a variety of colors and weights, scissors, paper, markers, t-pins, blunt needle and note taking materials. Upon registration of the class, students will be provided with warping directions and other additional assistance.

Dates and times: Friday, February 19 and Friday March 4, 2016 from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. with a break for lunch. **Location:** Raymond Sanchez Community Center, 9800 4th St NW, Albuquerque **Fees:** \$180 + \$10 materials fee

Instructor: Myra Chang Thompson has been weaving and teaching for about 40 years. She spins, knits, weaves, dyes and gardens in Los Chavez, NM.

Questions? Contact Myra at mchangt@yahoo.com **Registration:** Contact mchangt@yahoo.com with your name, address, phone and email address



Chardonnay Wine Grapes of the Central California Valley" woven by M. Chang Thompson

Classified Advertisements

Advertise your items here. Contact Myra or Terri, and we'll place your ad in the next newsletter.

Meet one of our members:

This month's "guest member" is **Mary Black**. Mary is our new treasurer. This is the information she shared with us:

Mary Black was raised in Rochester, New York, though it's not recommended! Ha! Ha!

Her education is mostly from the school of hard knocks... She took classes as needed to learn what she needed to know as she went on...

Mary started in fiber because she wanted an animal based business, which led to alpacas, since people did not eat them in the US... and they're awfully cute!

Her favorite activity is probably when a needle felting picture is coming together because at times they are just plain ugly along the way!

Her favorite projects... hmmm... include inkle weaving and needle felting are right there neck and neck... And, she says, it depends on timeframe which one I pick up!

Mary says that inspiration is all around us. Once she has an idea of a picture, she will google photos on the Internet as further inspiration.

This year she would like to do a couple more shows than in the past. She may put items on consignment or join a couple of galleries.

Something she's always wanted to do...hmm... She's afraid there's not much on her bucket list. She doesn't like to travel. She has been doing bookkeeping for about 30 years, so she guesses something she would like to happen is to begin doing more art (that sells!) and less bookkeeping so if she eventually retires, she can still have a small income though she feels she will continue with her business as long as she has good clients and is able to do so!!

Non-Fiber Interests: She loves New Mexico and animals (in case somebody didn't know that already, ha ha!). She no longer rides horses, since a bad accident 5 years ago has left her somewhat unbalanced. Mary works hard to keep her back as pain free as possible. She is starting to clicker train her horse, so she may still "hang out" with her horse! It's loads of fun and she seems to enjoy it as well. Mary and her husband also have the 5 alpacas, 4 dogs, 3 cats, 1 bearded dragon and two grown daughters. If she finds herself "bored" she can still enjoy a good novel. It's usually so long between the times she picks it up that she forgets what's going on!

Most of their dogs and cats are elderly (up to 18 years old!), so she thinks before long they will have a more "normal" number of pets! She hopes she can refrain from getting the numbers so high again, so she may have to find another place to volunteer to get Her fix!



Questions?

Ask your officers or any member. If we don't know, we'll find out.

2016 Executive Board

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Send all correspondence to :

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FIBER TO FINISH IS ON THE WEB – Check out the guild's home on the web at www.fibertofinish.org.

You'll be able to see the newsletters on line; the minutes from each month's meeting are in the newsletter as well. There are also lots of photos posted from meetings and members' work.

Minutes of the January meeting: There was no business meeting in January.