



FIBER TO FINISH GUILD NEWSLETTER

February 2014



From the weaver's bench:

This month's topic is the acquisition of stuff. Sometimes we, in the fiber world, refer to this as "acquiring a stash." What is a stash? A stash can be anything you collect. A stash can be purely fiber and/or yarn. My personal stash includes yarn, fiber, tools, spinning wheels, looms, fabric and the related paraphernalia. I include books, videos, and other media in the mix. So, yes, I have a rather large stash—one that I've accumulated over many years and with great pleasure.

Perhaps my favorite acquisitions are items that were given to me quite by surprise. As a young weaver I knew many older weavers in northern California. As they reluctantly gave up their homes and looms I became the beneficiary of their goods. Many times they knew I would use their materials with children. One of my favorite acquisitions was from my friend, Ruth Courtney. Ruth was forced to leave her incredible home to move to a retirement complex. From Ruth I inherited a wealth of fine silks and cashmere yarns!

Some acquisitions are not well thought out and remind me of my foolishness! I once bought yards of woven wool fabric, cut in strips for rag weaving. I wove two rugs and decided I didn't really like the way they looked! Fortunately it was not an expensive purchase. Another time I bought a ton of yarn in Canada that was weakly spun. It could only be used for a weft. It was an eye opener to discover how many projects I had to invent to use up this yarn!



I'm happy to report that I got a lot smarter as the years wore on. I made much more thoughtful choices. White, mercerized yarn could always be dyed.

Next meeting: Feb 15 **Program / Workshop Wet Felting**

Our next meeting will be held at the First Baptist Church in Belen, at 4th and Becker Streets beginning at 12:45. Please bring an apron, rubber gloves, and a sheet of plastic (a dry cleaner bag or trash bag will do). The guild will furnish the rest! We will use some of Wendy Jacobs' fleece and some alpaca from Mary Curik. We will embark on a project of creating a woolen bat. The bat will be embellished at the March meeting and it is designed to be included on a garment. If you plan to bring a guest, please let Terri or Myra know so we have enough materials. Questions? Call Terri or Myra.

Turquoise, in any shade or fiber, was always something I could "work into" a warp or weft. I also added yarns and fibers to my stash that I truly loved. Well, some I love a lot more than others but you get the meaning.

Consider your own stash. Do you remember the instant you fell in love with that bead, crochet hook, yarn, pattern or other item? It was pure pleasure! You may find yourself caressing a special ball of yarn that has some special meaning to you. I think that when you review your stash (with a kind eye, mind you) that you will think of the projects that you have yet to do. The dreams you have yet to create and having the material right in your hand makes it more likely that the dream will come true! At least that's what I tell everyone that asks about my stash!

Keep your hands warm in fiber,
Myra Chang Thompson

P. S. Speaking of adding to our stashes, Terri Greenlee recently added to her already wonderful spinning wheel collection. The little maple wheel has been named "Lois Ball" in honor of her original owner. See Terri's story and pictures in the newsletter!

March 15, 2014 meeting Program/Workshop: Wet Felting Embellishment We will meet at the First Baptist Church in Belen at 4 th and Becker Streets and 12:45 for refreshments, a continuation of the workshop on embellishing our wet felt bat and a business meeting. A discussion will take place involving what YOU have planned for your embellished bat.

April 19, 2014 meeting Program: Chip Kimball Shares Textiles From Her Travels

Guild member, Chip Kimball, will share her textile collection that she acquired while traveling. Chip has a special love for textiles and her wonderful collection reflects that. Come join us in discovering some beautifully made textiles.
Refreshments at 1:00 Program at 1:15 Business Meeting at 2:30



Questions?

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

2013 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's also photos and notes posted from some of the classes and presentations the guild has given.



Getting fleece batts ready for the felting workshop, with drum carders.



Classified Advertisements:

From Wendy Jacobs' estate: Rambouillet-Cormo-Merino cross yarn in light gold, happy pink, dark and light natural colors \$17.00 each; **40 inch Schacht wolf with stroller.** 4 shaft. 6 treadle with bench and saddle bags; Reeds 12 and 8 dent reeds with cardboard packing leash sticks, stick and 6 boat shuttles, Swedish wooden swift, Horizontal Warping mill. 1 yard around, bobbin winder, and cone holder. \$2,000 or best offer. Contact Myra at mchangt@yahoo.com or 864-0876

45", 4-Shaft Nilus LeClerc Loom. Excdellent condition with bench. Older, well- built loom that has been used for rug weaving. \$800. Contact Myra Chang- Thompson at 864-0876 or mchangt@yahoo.com.

46" LeClerc maple loom, 4 shaft 6 treadle, bench with storage included. A high castle shelf is perfect for mounting a lamp or draft. It is a sturdy loom perfect for rugs, tapestries as well as fine weaving. \$800 or best offer. Must sell to make room! Contact Myra @ mchangt@yahoo.com or 864-0876.

40" Harrisville 4-harness loom with 10- and 12-dent reeds and bench and how to weave book - \$600 22" Schacht rigid heddle loom with 10- and 12-dent reeds and trestle stand and how to weave book - \$75 Excellent warp board \$40 Tapestry and hand looms to sell as a set \$30 Contact Barbara Garrett at 565-2204

26 inch Schacht 4-heddle Baby Wolf Loom and Accessories

Excellent condition, nice workshop loom, easy to take along. \$875 Contact Mary 505-379-4534 Lots of extras:

- stroller
- adjustable bench
- wolf trap
- raddle
- lease sticks
- boat shuttle
- 2 reeds : 8 and 12
- weaving temple
- pattern holder

Do you have something to sell? Do you want to advertise a class or workshop? Send your ad to Mary Curik! mary@fourpinesalpacas.com 505-379-4534

Upcoming events:

SPIDER'S MARKET - annual Spring Sale. It includes everything from pot holders to Tapestry, It will be held March 21 & 22, 2014 9 am – 4 pm at the Albuquerque Garden Center, 10120 Lomas Ave.

Museum of Heritage & Arts: Bill Pearson, Annmarie's husband is featured as the current photography exhibit. Call 839-3850 for hours and dates of the exhibit.



Paxton Curik likes his new rug. Mary wove the rug on a 22" Schacht rigid heddle loom. The warp is coyote warp from Mora mill, a churro wool. The rug was woven with Mary's core-spun alpaca.



Make a Valentine paper heart!
See a great web page at Aunt Annie's Crafts. You can download patterns and instructions, then have a good time making your valentines!

<http://www.auntannie.com/Valentines/HeartBasket/>



Mothers' Wheels – by Terri Greenlee

Some people name their spinning wheels, some do not. Sometimes a spinning wheel requires a name, sometimes not. You may have a Lendrum named “Lenny” or a Schacht Matchless you will never part with that has no name other than “my spinning wheel”. It’s usually a matter of preference, convenience, or personal idiosyncrasies (i.e., creativity). This is a story of two wheels that are named after their former owner’s mothers as a way to honor the women who first loved them and to remember their heritage and lineage.



Remember back in September 2012, when Myra and I found a beautiful rosewood Norwegian spinning wheel for sale and that wheel came home to live with Myra? The wheel’s previous owner, Rena, told us it had belonged to her mother, Irene, so in honor of Rena’s mother, Myra named the wheel “Irene”. It was so dusty we had no idea of how gorgeous the rosewood really was. Here is a photo of Beautiful Irene at our September 2012 Guild meeting.

A couple of weeks ago Rena called Myra again. This time she had a friend, Janice, who had a spinning wheel that needed a new home. Myra called me and I packed up my emergency spinning wheel tool kit (3-in-1 oil, multi-tool, wool, and string) and we trekked out west of Belen on the dirt roads to see the wheel. Oh, my, was it dusty and dirty. It appeared to be a “real” spinning wheel not just a SWSO*. It had all its parts but the drive band didn’t fit, so we couldn’t test drive it. Why I forgot to just tie a new one with the string I brought, I don’t know.

I think we were distracted by the fact that the linen drive band that was on it was supposed to work. Janice told us it had belonged to her mother Lois Ball when she lived in Montana some 40 years ago. Janice remembers her mother making lots of yarn on that wheel and when her mother moved to a smaller home, Janice brought the wheel home with her. But like Rena, Janice did not spin so the wheel was a decoration in her house for a long time. Now Janice is getting ready to move and the wheel was just taking up space. I was a bit reluctant to buy the wheel since I have a few wheels and don’t really need another one, but the sentimental value made me want to find it a good home where it would be loved again. Last weekend I got started on the restoration. Here she is disassembled and ready for cleaning.



I used a lot of Murphy’s Wood Soap in warm water, plenty of plain warm water to rinse, lots of different scrubbing tools to get in all the nooks and crannies, and WD40 for the metal parts, oh, and my foam kneeling pad, that driveway cement is hard. I worked all of Saturday and part of Sunday, about 14 hours of hard manual labor, to get it all cleaned and waxed. The drive wheel was the most difficult piece to clean and polish with all of its turnings and curves. The other pieces were not as hard as they were small and easy to hold on to (maidens & bobbins) or big and flat (table & treadle). Check out the maiden on the lower left and the MOA on the right; what a difference!

All that hard work really paid off in the end. Her maple wood is polished and glowing, the slight warp in her wheel hardly noticeable. Here she is all clean and beautiful, “Lois Ball Spinning Wheel”:

She can now spin a very nice yarn again and I am working on a simple 3-ply to show off soon. I really enjoy spinning long draw on her as I can treadle with my right foot, hold my right hand near the orifice, and draw back with my left hand without anything in my way. Lois B Wheel may be the one I’ve been looking for and didn’t know it until now!

* Spinning Wheel Shaped Object, as they say on the internet, not a functional wheel.

