



## **PRESIDENTS LETTER**

Now that we are almost in February spring is just around the corner. The sun is showing its face more often and the temperatures are warming up. Hope everyone is feeling well. We are quickly approaching our spring sale which is in April. We have a committee and chairperson in place. Start preparing your creative endeavors that you will enter in the sale.

We are looking to fill board positions for the 2018/2019 calendar year. If you have any interest in serving on the board or suggestions on who could fill those positions, please let me know. **The positions are President, Vice President-programs, Vice President-workshops, Treasurer/membership, Secretary, Librarian, Webmaster/Newsletter (1-20), Publicity (2-3 people), MLH rep and Hospitality (1-2).** Please advise any interest that you may have in any of these positions.

**We will have a board meeting at 6pm** prior to the regular February meeting to discuss recent discussions regarding dues, fees and budget.

Looking forward to seeing you at the February meeting.

*Ron Wonboy. BSWFG President*

### **Table of Contents-February 2018 issue**

Inclement Weather Notice	page 2
Looms for Rent	page 2
MLH summer workshops	page 2
Guild program schedule	page 2
Guild workshop schedule	page 3
Reminders	page 3
Learning Grant application	page 3
Secretary report (minutes)	page 3-4
Treasurer's report	page 4
Holiday Drawing Results	page 4
Announcements	page 5
Materials from Austin Kleon news	page 5

## **PROGRAM: February 1, 2018**

### **Painting on Canvas-Mary Bajcz presenter**

#### **Fun with Oil Pastels and Acrylic Paints on Canvas**



Mary has been painting on canvas with oil pastels and acrylic paint for about a year. She will share what she has learned at our February meeting. The painted canvas can be used as an artwork on its own or, if a finish is applied, can be made into functional pieces like floor cloths, placemats, table runners or handbags. This has been an intriguing process for her as she usually works in fiber.



### **NOTICE:**

*The Fibers & Flowers Sale committee will have a meeting to review the upcoming sale responsibilities at 5:30pm. (see page 4)*

*The BSWFG Board will have a brief meeting at 6pm Please be on time!*



## INCLEMENT WEATHER NOTICE

If the Hartland Schools are closed, or if there is a closure of our meeting location, there will be no BSWFG meeting. If weather worsens during the day, a decision will be made by 4 p.m., and every attempt will be made to post a meeting cancellation on our web site. **You may also check the school website at <http://www.hartlandschools.us/> for closing notifications or [WHML.com](http://www.whml.com) the local Livingston County radio station website.** When in doubt, please contact a Board member.

## BLACK SHEEP WEAVERS FIBER GUILD LOOMS FOR RENT

A year or so ago, a family donated two LeClerc looms to the guild. They are available for rent to members by the month. One is a large floor loom, and the other is a small table top loom. They are currently being housed at Linda Lundstrom's house. Transportation can be arranged if you need help with this. For more information, contact Linda Lundstrom at [Linda@backtoackalpaca.com](mailto:Linda@backtoackalpaca.com) or see <http://www.blacksheepweavers.com/member-services.html>



## MLH Summer Workshops: June 8 - 10, 2018

**Registration began Jan. 8, 2018**

Registration for the upcoming workshops has begun. The workshops take place from June 8-10, 2018. A link will can be found on the website [www.mlhguild.org](http://www.mlhguild.org) and Facebook page. Don't be left out! Register early.

The January Program on the French quilting technique called **Boutis** was very interesting and our speaker Cathy Greenhalgh shared many sample boards and also explained the different ways garments were embellished.



## Black Sheep Weavers Fiber Guild Programs & Workshops schedule 2018

- Feb. 1 **Mary Bajcz, presenter**  
Mary will show us painting on canvas and uses for your masterpieces.
- Mar. 1 **Artist Garage sale & Swap  
Plus Mystery Bag exchange**
- Mar.2 **On the Surface! WORKSHOP- instructor  
Carol Riffe 9am-4pm**
- Mar 8 **Tie-Dyeing-REVISITED WORKSHOP  
Instructor-Nadine Cloutier 1-3pm**
- April 5 **Paula Neys, presenter**  
Designing with alcohol inks
- April 12 **Free Motion Lace Stitched Bowls  
WORKSHOP instructor Cindy Geist  
5-9pm**
- April 21-22**  
**13<sup>th</sup> annual Fibers & Flowers Sale,  
Bogie Lake Greenhouses in White Lake, MI**
- May 3 **Madeline Navarro, presenter**  
Wet felting lovely wool flowers
- June 7 **Pot Luck/Elections**  
Plus last Show n Tell
- .....

## MLH Summer Workshops: June 8-10, 2018

You are invited and encouraged to attend the Michigan League of Handweavers (MLH) Summer Workshops for an exciting three days of fiber activities. The quiet, serene campus of Hope College, set in the heart of Holland, Michigan's business district provides a wonderful environment for meeting fiber friends as well as pursuing, furthering and challenging your fiber interests.

**Workshops: 1. Weaving the Unexpected using Alternative Materials- Anastasia Azure;**  
**2. Altered Surfaces- JoAnn Bachelder;**  
**3. Untying the Mysteries of Tied Weaves- Su Butler;**  
**4. The World Isn't Flat- 3D Loom Weaving- Sally Eyring;**  
**5. One of a Kind Jacket Class- Mary Sue Fenner;**  
**6. Ruana Shawl with Robbin Firth;**  
**7. Norwegian Inspired Pick Up Bands on an Inkle Loom- Joan Sheridan;**  
**8. Dyeing Workshop- Not your Grandma's Dye Pot- Kathrin Weber**

## **GUILD WORKSHOPS**

**PLEASE NOTE: Annette Shaffer will be taking PAID Registrations at each meeting.**

### **On the Surface! with Carol Riffe**

In this 6 hour class you will learn many surface design techniques to make your fabric look like you want it to—perfect for landscapes, portraits and art quilts. You will learn to change color, texture and how to thread paint and add special effects. You will create a notebook of samples on each technique at class. **A sample board of the techniques to be covered in the workshop will be available for inspection at the February meeting.** Full description and supply list is posted on the Guild website.

**Date and Time: Friday, March 2, 2018,  
9am-4pm**

**Workshop fee:** \$50 includes notebook and supplies (check payable to BSWG, dated February 28, 2018) Bring a lunch

**Min 6/Max15 REGISTERED to DATE: 2**



### **Tie Dyeing-REVISITED with Nadine Cloutier**

This is not the same tie-dyeing technique done in the 1960s-70s. We will be using men's 100% silk ties. A silk scarf and a transfer dye technique and heat to create a one-of-a-kind silk scarf design. A complete supply list will be posted on the BSWG website. **Nadine will bring samples of her own "tie-dyed" scarves to the meeting.**

**Date and Time: Thursday, March 8, 2018, 1-3 pm**  
(please be prompt)

**Workshop Fee:** \$30 (includes the scarf),  
check payable to BSWG, dated March 5, 2018

**Min 8/Max 14 REGISTERED to DATE: 6**

### **Free Motion Lace Stitched Bowls with Cindy Geist**

Details of workshop description will be posted on the Guild website later or updated at the Sept meeting

**Date and Time: Thursday, April 12, 2018, 5-9pm**

**Workshop Fee:** \$TBD, check payable to Black Sheep Weavers

**Min 6/Max15**

## **REMINDERS\*\*PLEASE REMEMBER\*\*FYI**

### **Collecting pop off tabs**



Save those pop off tabs from your canned goods or soda pop for the Veterans. **Georgian** collects them and turns them in to be used to purchase medical needs for our veterans.

### **BSWG LEARNING GRANTS- Apply NOW!**

The Guild has established a fund to be used for learning grants. Each year we accept application which have a due date of March 1 this year. We award four \$50.00 grants to members. This has been under-utilized in the past.

Think about applying this year. The form is very simple to fill out. You can use the money, if awarded, to reimburse yourself in part for a workshop taken earlier in the year or for something coming up in 2018.

You are just required to write a short article about your experience in the class/workshop or present it at a Show N Tell time at a future meeting.

The Application is located on the Guild website under "**Member Services**".

### **SECRETARY REPORT:**

#### **January 5, 2018 Meeting Minutes**

Meeting was called to order by President Ron Wonboy at 6:45 pm.

#### **Old Business:**

Good news – no merchandise was "lost" at the Holiday Sale. Our increased security measures are working.

#### **New Business:**

For all future BSW meetings there will be a sign-in sheet at the room entrance where you should sign your name and your BSW number. This is so that attendance can be verified for BSW members that intend to participate in our sales.

**The Spring sale, April 21 & 22, 2018** held at Bogie Lake Greenhouse, was discussed as we as yet had no sale committee members. Seven people volunteered to be the committee, they are: Kathy Amerman, Mary Bajcz, Nadine Cloutier, Ellen Lecureux, Pam McCormick, Annette Shaffer, Kathy Stahl-**Chairperson**

#### **Hours for the Spring Sale are:**

Saturday, April 21 from 9am-5pm; Sunday, April 22 from 10am-4 pm Set up is on Friday times TBD

**(more on page 4)**

(January 5 minutes continued)

There was lots of discussion about items for sale and sale participants. Two major items were discussed:  
**Jurying:** Jurying will take place in the two hours prior to the sale after the items are out and arranged for the sale. Items that do not meet BSW sale standards (please see Standards of Acceptance on the BSW website for specific details for each discipline on your specific sale items) will be pulled and an explanation will be given to the creator via a check sheet.

**Packing Up after the Sale:** All participants of the sale are required to wait and help other participants pack up prior to leaving, anyone who does not will not be allowed to participate in future sales.

A motion to adjourn was made by Kathy Amerman and seconded by Linda Lundstrum at 8:10 pm

The program for January took place after the general meeting.

Connie Hydell - Secretary

**TREASURER'S REPORT:**

The Guild bank account balance is currently \$7,105. January expenses totaled \$467 and included the January program, sale expenses, the annual PO Box fee and checks. Income of \$25 came from a new member. We are currently ahead of our annual forecasted budget.

**Membership**

Please extend a warm Black Sheep welcome to our new member **Carrie Welch** from Ortonville.

**SHOW n TELL**



**2017 BSW Holiday Sale – Drawing Results from Cathy Greenhalgh**

**205 total drawing participants.** How did they hear about the sale?

- 38% said word of mouth
- 20% via email
- 15% said “other” – quite a few commented that they saw signs
- 10% via flyer

We had **148 participants with new emails!** This will bring our customer **email list to 990 people!**

Of these new participants, how did they hear about the sale?

- 46% said word of mouth
- 15% said “other” – many commented that they saw signs, drove by, or going to greenhouse
- 13% via flyer 56 participants were already on our email list.

Of these participants, how did they hear about the sale?

- 54% via email
- 16% by word of mouth
- 12% said “other”

**SHOW n TELL**



**Fibers & Flowers Sale Committee**

Members who volunteered to help with the spring sale Annette S. Nadine, Pam, Mary, Kathy A. Ellen, Cathy, Sharon let’s meet at 5:30pm before the start of our February 1 meeting to organize our responsibilities

All other members— we will sign up for participation in the sale at our February 1 meeting. Use these winter days to create!!! Kathy Stahl-Chair



## ANNOUNCEMENTS

**The Stitchery** (*Fabric side of the store*) is closing. Located at 1129 E. Grand River in Howell they will still maintain the Janome and Elna sewing machine dealership.

Currently there is a 50% off on the clearance fabrics and a \$2 per yard table. Starting February 1-15 the fabrics in the Quilt shop will be 40% off, February 16-March 15, 60% off and finally March 15-31 80% off. Please come and take advantage of these sales before we close that portion of the store on March 31.



**Loving Vincent** movie has been released on DVD and Blu-ray.

**Prices vary:** Barnes & Noble \$13.99; Best Buy \$14.99; as well as on Amazon, Walmart, etc. Blu-ray always a bit higher price

### **Free motion winter landscape class**

The Hamburg Senior Center is offering a sewing class on free motion winter landscape. The class is Wednesday March 14 from 9:30am to 3:30pm. Cost is 25.00 for the kit and 25.00 for the class. Dr. Susan Kruszynski, who has attended many of Ann Loveless classes, will be teaching many great tips on the easy way to do a landscape. Sign up closes on Feb 26. Barbara Nagy will bring flyers and pictures of her work to the February meeting.

### **Materials, man** (*How to fall in love with your materials*)

#### **Excerpt from Austin Kleon's weekly newsletter**

I've been thinking a lot lately about *materials*. Obviously, a painter's material is paint, a sculptor's material is bronze or clay. But what of the other, more abstract arts? For example, a stand-up comedian will refer to her *material*. What, exactly, *is* that material? Jokes? Stories? What is a writer's material?

More and more I think that our work-and happiness in our work-is to be found in not only identifying our material, but thinking of it as actual, *tangible* material that you can see and hear and touch and smell and even taste and manipulate with your hands. This is easier to do if the material is physical, which is why I think so many writers write longhand, or print out their rough drafts to edit with a pencil, or read their work aloud.

An artist has to have a kind of *sensual* relationship with her material. She has to find material she can fall in love with, or, maybe even better, she has to love the material available to her. The stuff that's lying around. (There's a saying: "Attention is the most basic form of love.")

Yesterday, I was flipping through a big stack of newspapers, looking for images- *material!* and I came across this article, "**The Materials Man of the Emirates**," about artist **Hassan Sharif**: "Sharif's art insists that nothing is wasted if you make waste your creative source." As Sharif found out, your material could be, in fact, **what others consider trash**. That is part of the artist's job: **finding treasure in the trash**.

Anni Albers, in a 1938 bulletin for Black Mountain College, wrote about "Working With Material." She said that modern civilization has caused us to lose touch with our own creativity. Her advice: "we must come down to earth from the clouds where we live in vagueness, and experience the most real thing there is: material." Over 40 years later, she asked, in "**Material as Metaphor**," "How do we choose our specific material[?]" Her answer: "Accidentally."

Something speaks to us, a sound, a touch, hardness or softness, it catches us and asks us to be formed. We are finding our language, and as we go along we learn to obey their rules and their limits. We have to obey, and adjust to those demands. Ideas flow from it to us and though we feel to be the creator we are involved in a dialogue with our medium. The more subtly we are tuned to our medium, the more inventive our actions will become. Not listening to it ends in failure. She speaks of her own path:

In my case it was threads that caught me, really against my will. To work with threads seemed sissy to me. I wanted something to be conquered. But circumstances held me to threads and they won me over. I learned to listen to them and to speak their language. I learned the process of handling them. What she learned, in the process of working with threads, she was then able to apply to other materials, for example, learning how ink wants to be with paper. She emphasizes that you really have to work *with* your materials, understand what they want to become. They will tell you what they want to be if you listen to them. "The finer tuned we are to [them]," she says, "the closer we come to art."

Read the full article here <https://austinkleon.com/2018/01/14/materials-man/>