



# FIBER TO FINISH GUILD NEWSLETTER



December 2013

## From the weaver's bench:

It is already December! This year has flown by as they tend to do. The winter blew in rather quickly leaving us with a blanket of cold snow. The mountain peaks in the distance look as if they were dusted by a giant box of confectioner's sugar. It all makes for a nice time to focus on projects we want to have done in time for the big event later this month.

I find myself snuggling down by the wood or pellet stove with a project in hand. Of course there are many already started! It is a quiet time to meditate about future projects and tasks to accomplish. I've always liked to knit mittens. They are easy, quick and handy to wear. I memorized the 36 stitch mitten by Elizabeth Zimmerman many years ago and use it exclusively. One year I completed 14 pair of children's mittens that went to a homeless shelter. That year I felt as if I had done a good thing.

There is a warm feeling that you get when you do something for someone else – even if you don't know them! Sometimes that nice, warm feeling stays with you for a long time and sometimes it lasts as long as a spoken “thank you.” I was raised in a home by generous parents who believed in helping others. It may have been the post-Depression era in which they were raised that brought this about, I don't know. But it always made sense to me and seemed a natural extension of my personality.

So this year I find that I have done a great number of things that have helped promote the guild and its membership, helped to create opportunities for members to learn and to be inspired, supporting other guild members in the expression of their craft and to elevate the level of exposure and craftsmanship in fiber arts. Yes, there is more to do and with your help and support we will get more accomplished!

Keep your hands warm in fiber,  
Myra Chang Thompson

## Next meeting: Dec 21 Belen Public Library 333 Becker Street 10:30 a.m. - ending at 1:45 p.m.

Bring a holiday edible and something you'd like to share with the group (a new idea, material, color combination, whatever you're working on currently). Election of officers. Invite a friend to join us.

PLEASE REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR 12 INCH BY 24 INCH WOOL PIECE FOR OUR GIFT BLANKET. THE SASHING IS ALL WOVEN AND SUE PHELPS HAS, ONCE AGAIN, AGREED TO SEW IT TOGETHER FOR US!

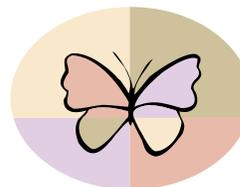
ALSO REMEMBER TO BRING YOUR CROCHET SHAWLS AND LAP ROBES THAT WILL BE DONATED TO A LOCAL NURSING HOME FOR SENIORS! WE WANT TO HAVE A NICE PILE OF GIFTS TO TAKE TO THE SENIORS.



**DUES ARE NOW DUE!**  
**REMEMBER THEY ARE \$12.00 FOR**  
**THE ENTIRE YEAR. BRING YOUR**  
**CHECK OR CASH TO THE NEXT**  
**MEETING!**



ANNMARIE PEARSON WILL BE PREPARED TO TAKE YOUR DUES, UPDATE THE ADDRESS LIST AND PASS OUT YOUR MEMBERSHIP CARD.



### **To remove the moth ball smell:**

Soak the skein(s) of yarn in Isopropyl Alcohol (rubbing alcohol).

Using rubber gloves, squeeze the alcohol out of the fiber.

Wash in warm sudsy water, rinse and hang to dry.

## Reminder:

At the December meeting we will be voting for officers.  
The nominating committee presented the following slate:



**President** - Myra Chang Thompson

**Secretary** - Chip Kimball

**Member At Large** - Diana Dow

**Web Mistress** - Chip Kimball & Mary Curik

**Hostess** - Ann Szklarz & Barbara Bogle

**Vice Pres.** - Terri Greenlee

**Treasurer** - Annmarie Pearson

**Newsletter** - Mary Curik

**ALSO:** it's time to choose a theme for our year. Do you have any ideas?

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**January 18th meeting** Bring a question: in knitting, weaving, spinning, crocheting or anything else fiber related and one of our "panel of guild members" will answer it! If you have a question about a certain technique or method bring it with you! Please consider this a help session. Many of you have expressed interest in learning something new and yet specific to your own work—so this meeting is for you!

**February 15 meeting** Topic to be announced in January

**March 15 meeting** To be announced later.

## Questions?

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

### **2013 Executive Board**

**Pres.** Myra Chang Thompson

**V. Pres.** Terrie Greenlee

**Sec'y** Chip Kimball

**Treas.** Annmarie Pearson

**Member at large** – Diana Dow

**Hospitality** – Barbara Bogle

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Send all correspondence to :

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**P. O. Box 1613 Belen, NM 87002-1613**

**FIBER TO FINISH IS ON THE WEB** Check out the guild's home on the web at [www.fibertofinish.org](http://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.





## Classified Advertisements:

WEAVING STUDIO CONTENTS FROM WENDY JACOB'S ESTATE IS STILL AVAILABLE. 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, 6 BOAT SHUTTLES.

SWEDISH WOODEN SWIFT, HORIZONTAL WARPING MILL (1 YARD AROUND) AND BOBBIN WINDER. THIS LOVELY EQUIPMENT NEEDS A HOME! \$2,000 OR BEST OFFER. CONTACT MYRA @ 864-0876

45 INCH NILUS LECLERC 4 SHAFT LOOM WITH 6 TREADLES. EXCELLENT CONDITION WITH BENCH. THIS IS AN OLDER, WELL-BUILT LOOM THAT HAS BEEN USED FOR RAG WEAVING. \$800.00 CONTACT MYRA @ 864-0876 OR [MCHANGT@YAHOO.COM](mailto:MCHANGT@YAHOO.COM)

CORMO-RAMBOUILLET- MERINO CROSS FINE WOOL 2 PLY YARN IN DARK AND WHITE NATURAL WHITE COLORS. SOME DYED SKEINS AS WELL. \$17.00 EACH FROM WENDY JACOB'S SHEEP. CONTACT MYRA @ 864-0876 OR [MCHANGT@YAHOO.COM](mailto:MCHANGT@YAHOO.COM)

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

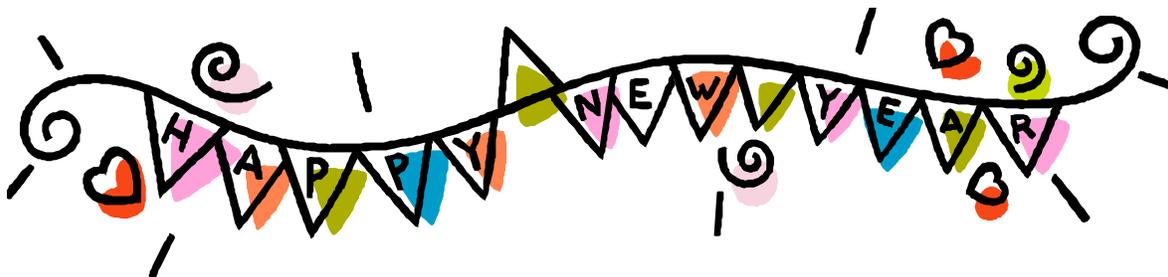
## Upcoming events:

***Las Arañas Spinners and Weavers Guild Tapestry Study Group Show*** "Connected Webs" November 1 to December 29, 2013 at the City of Albuquerque Open Space Visitors Center Gallery, 6500 Coors Blvd. NW, Tuesdays thru Saturdays from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

By the way, this tapestry show is very good. Cat O'Connor, one of our members, has her very first tapestry, "Chaos Tree" in the exhibit. You will want to see the tapestry woven from different colored plastic bags woven by Mary Colton! It is an outstanding exhibit. It is a good place to take holiday company for something artsy.

## ***This and that:***

- Our Yarn Swap and Really Big Yarn Sale were a great hit! Aren't bargain yarn and books a great thing? We received two additional \$25 donations in the memory of Barbara Price from Janice Leach and Annmarie Pearson. We collected approximately \$340.00 from the yarn, books and magazines. This will go towards programs for next year! Have any suggestions or topics? Myra and Terri are always grateful for your ideas.
- The City of Belen has levied a \$200 entry fee for groups exhibiting in the annual Harvey House Museum. Upon recommendation of the executive board and the guild's discussion, we will not be participating in the February event.



**More:** Thank you to Sarah Pearson, Annmarie's daughter in law, who was such a kind and generous helper at the Yarn Swap and Sale!

A great big thanks to Mary Curik and Craig Hill for marketing and selling the fine yarn from Wendy Jacob's estate. Another thanks to Terri Greenlee for organizing and helping sell Wendy's wares at the recent Bosque Farms Fiber Fest. It was a giant job made smaller by more hands! P. S. Thanks to George for providing and delivering lunch!



Our president, Myra Chang Thompson, won 2nd place in the Remember, Reflect and Rejoice! Show held at the Los Lunas Museum of Heritage and Arts. She also received a ribbon for the "Judge's Pick" along with \$200.00 for "Coastal Peruvian Waters."

Our member, Louie Garcia, and his Pueblo Fiber Guild had a great annual show at the Indian Pueblo Cultural Center in Albuquerque. Several members converged on the center to get in some early seasonal shopping.

The Bosque Fiber Arts Fest has just been held. It was taken over by Julie and Kim, two area women. In the past, our member, Mary Curik had organized the fest. It was a fun event with lots of shopping taking place. We saw several members shopping including Toni Tooker, Barbara Garrett, Pamela Boyd, Mary Curik, B. J. Boyd, Diana Dow, Deby Gallogly, Linda Walters, Janet Elwood, Cat O'Connor and Janice VanHavermaat.

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## Knitting Machine Adventures

by Terri Greenlee

It seemed like an easy task: knit a 12" x 24" rectangle for the Guild afghan project. I decided that rather than hand knit this sizable rectangle I would crank out a plain stockinette piece on the knitting machine. OK, the first step is to set up the machine. Searching.... Ah ha! Here it is hidden in the guest room closet. Well, where else would it be, the sewing room is so full I can barely walk in. Now the machine is set up in the family room where there's room to spread out. Good thing I have the manuals and accessories, because I can't remember how to start. Following the manual one step at a time, I finally get it threaded and a swatch started. It turns out that swatching on the knitting machine is maybe even more critical than swatching your hand knitting, because once the piece is taken off the machine, it squirms and rolls and becomes a completely different size than it was on the needles. Step 2, adjust the tension, make another swatch. This is going to take awhile.

A week later...

Chip Kimball and the F2F board are visiting to run through the Yarn Swap rules, and Chip says, "Show me how the knitting machine works." Easier said than done. I think I tried to thread the machine about 3 times before I gave up and showed her a picture of what it's supposed to look like.

A week later...

It is well past time to get the afghan rectangle finished and delivered. Used the manual and set up for another tension swatch. Progress is made. Three swatches later I think I've got it; my swatch is now 12" across after it comes off the machine. But getting more than a few inches knitted without a jam is getting frustrating. Rethread, try again, repeat, until finally, it looks like it may work. Knitting along, back and forth, back and forth, and the piece is growing. And growing. At last, it is the correct length to bind off. It turns out that

binding off is a by-hand process, one stitch at a time, but after a half hour of that, it is finally off the machine. I only have to finish the cast on edge add my embellishment with the second yarn (the multi-color mohair) and I'll be done.

A week later...

Myra happens to stop by and I show her the piece (still not finished). Myra points out it's kinda short; it doesn't look very rectangular. So I get out the measuring tape and sure enough, it is only 12" long. Good grief! I made a 12" square instead of a 12" x 24" rectangle. Back to the drawing board. Or more correctly, the knitting board. Do I make another 12" square and sew them together or do I undo the whole thing and start over, again? I'm sure starting over is the right thing to do. Maybe next week I'll get (re)started on that. If I can remember how to thread the machine.



The moral of the story is, in the long run I could have hand knit the piece by now and been happy with the result, but no, I had to try to do it the fast and easy way!

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Pics from dying projects - -



Bobby's Boxers – will he model them for us???



Janice and Barb get creative