



# FIBER TO FINISH GUILD NEWSLETTER



September 2013

*From the weaver's bench:*

There are very few hard and fast rules that limit my relationship with fiber. One rule I try to follow is to never “acquire” yarn or fiber that has been stored in moth balls. I just cannot abide the lingering smell! So earlier this year guild member, Chip Kimball and I bought a storage barrel full of fiber stored in moth balls. Clearly we were carried away at the prospect of finding a treasure in the barrel. The telltale whiffs of moth balls should have been enough to warn us off—but it didn't.



Needless to say everything that was stored in that barrel had been there for years and years. The smell brought tears to my eyes as I looked through the barrel. There was nothing worth salvaging. There was some antique fleece that was dry, brittle and smelly. No treasures here! The entire barrel and contents are now exuding their aroma somewhere in a local landfill. I apologize to the future generations of the planet for this type of horrific polluting. I will make amends some other way.



So that was incident number one. The second one occurred last month as I helped Jake Jacobs sort through his wife, Wendy's, stash. Wendy had a pile of commercially prepared yarns in the most appealing colors! Oh my goodness! I responded to the colors by purchasing them and taking them home. What was the problem you say, gentle reader? Wendy stored all of her wool yarn and fiber in moth balls. The moth balls were placed in plastic bins on top of the yarn and fiber. By the time I'd inventoried all of the yarn my tongue was numb and I couldn't smell anything except mothballs!



I did not begin the mental or physical kicking myself in the tush right away. That has come repeatedly but slightly later. I went on-line to find what other people did with my smelly problem. “Sunshine and Febreze” was the first offering. Friends recommended laying freshly laundered yarn on the grass, wash in this, wash in that. . . The advice came and



I tried much of it! The result? You guessed it. No change. So my darling companion who loves researching odd things on the Internet came up with advice from a commercial cleaning site. Spritz the material with 6 parts rubbing alcohol and 4 parts water. Then wash and hang to dry. Being of a scientific mind, I thought surely the alcohol will “dissolve” the chemical bonds of the moth balls. What was I thinking? What actually happened was that once the Febreze was removed the moth ball smell was BACK. I'd let the alcohol evaporate! Ooops.

So I sprayed it again, washed it immediately in Dawn and Synthrapol, rinsed it and washed it again in just Synthrapol. And what did I get? I don't know. It is outside drying in the fresh air.

A brilliant social worker colleague I worked with always said, “What can you learn from this experience?” Besides the kicking myself I resolve never, ever to acquire yarn that has been stored in moth balls. I figured I could have purchased all of the yarn I bought plus 10 pounds more of non-smelling yarn with all of the time I've spent trying to rid the smell from the yarn. For those of you who crave an ending to this story, here it is. The beautiful yarn I purchased now has no aroma of mothballs! After all of the trial and error the cleaning advice worked. Keep it in mind the next time you're tempted to buy some smelly yarn--there is a solution! So keep your hands in fiber—the natural smelling type!

Best,  
Myra Chang Thompson

---

**September meeting:** September 21 at the First Baptist Church in Belen at the corner of Fourth and Becker Streets at 1:00. We will meet in the Annex.  
Myra will lead a class in dyeing cotton t-shirts or cotton fabric, 1 yard max. Fee for class: \$3.00 each to cover materials. See list of what to bring on p. 2

## September 21 Meeting Notes: Things you will need to bring:

Be prepared with clean, prewashed 100% cotton shirts or fabric. Other cellulose fibers are acceptable. Blends with polyester will not take the dye.

Rubber gloves

Wear old clothes and/or an apron

Paint brushes, variety of sizes

Plastic bag to transport your dyed item

Inexpensive sponges (I like the “pop up ones” the best)

Cardboard box (flattened and covered with a plastic bag) large enough to put inside your garment

Process: This is NOT tie dye - it is dye printing. Myra will show you some of her dyed shirts and materials. She will walk you through the process of using sponges, spray bottles or paint brushes to create a design. Then you will complete a piece for yourself. When you return home, you will need to place your garment in a hot dryer for 45 minutes at the hottest setting to “set the dye.”

A short business meeting will follow.

### A Special Memorial Gift

is being sent to Presbyterian Hospice in Wendy Jacobs' name. Wendy was a Fiber to Finish member. She raised milk goats and fine fiber sheep. She made wonderfully delicious goat cheese. Her sheep produced some of the loveliest Cormo-Merino-Rambouillet fleece and yarn, Her enthusiasm and energy was contagious. She was a spinner and had put her first warp on her loom when she was sidelined by breast cancer. For those who knew her, she was a very special friend. I will miss her energetic hugs.



### Questions?

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

#### **2013 Executive Board**

**Pres.** Myra Chang Thompson

864-0876 [mchangt@yahoo.com](mailto:mchangt@yahoo.com)

**V. Pres.** Terrie Greenlee

681-7421 [tlgreenlee@earthlink.net](mailto:tlgreenlee@earthlink.net)

**Sec'y** Chip Kimball

865-9302; 433-0801 [chip.kimball@gmail.com](mailto:chip.kimball@gmail.com)

**Treas.** Annmarie Pearson

865-5605 [altbalance@msn.com](mailto:altbalance@msn.com)

**Member at large** – Diana Dow

864-7097 [rockingbd@earthlink.net](mailto:rockingbd@earthlink.net)

**Hospitality** – Barbara Bogle

(703) 489-7274 [BLBogle@yahoo.com](mailto:BLBogle@yahoo.com)



Send all correspondence to :

**Valencia County Fiber to Finish Guild**  
**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.

**October meeting :** October 19<sup>th</sup> 1:00 p.m. First Baptist Church at Fourth and Becker Streets in Belen. Program: Garments! Our guest speaker will reveal all of the highs and lows of a professional garment business and share inspiration that will motivate and exciting your design sense. Short business meeting will follow to include our plans for the holiday party and donations.

**November meeting:** The really big yarn swap and sale event of the year! We want you to turn over yarns and fibers that you are not going to use and trade it for something you will use. The guidelines follow below. We've also acquired a large amount of yarn from a former knitter that we will sell as a fund raiser. Even if you have nothing to swap—you will surely want to shop! There are also knitting books available for sale.



### **Guidelines for the Big Yarn Swap:**

We have established the following categories for the yarn/fiber swap:

1. All acrylic yarns or unknown fiber yarns with a unit value of \$.50 (Like Red Heart Acrylic yarn)
  2. Part acrylic yarns with a unit value of \$1.00 (Lion Brand Wool Ease for example)
  3. Wool yarn of ordinary quality with a unit value of \$1.50 (Brown Sheep Wool)
  4. Wool or other animal fiber of better quality with a unit value of \$2.00 (Lamb's Pride by Brown Sheep)
  5. Luxury or exotic fiber or yarn with a unit value of \$2.50 (like Classic Elite's Sharon Mohair or alpaca)
- A “unit” or “item” should be approximately 4 ounces.  
If you have an 8 oz. skein, that's 2 “items” or “units”.
  - Assign a value to your yarn or fiber according to categories 1 to 5 above.
  - Label your yarn/fiber. Please do this ahead of time to avoid chaos and confusion during the Swap. Be sure to include:
    - -Category 1 – 5
    - -Number of units (for example, one 8 oz. skein = 2 units)
    - -Your name
    - -Anything else you'd like to include
  - Bring your yarn and fiber to the meeting.

There will also be a “FREE Table”. You are encouraged to donate to the Free Table to reduce your stash!

- Here's how it will work:
  - We'll have a Ticket Table. Trade your yarn/fiber for tickets valued at 50¢ each for the total value of your items.
  - Your yarn/fiber goes onto the swap tables.
  - You “shop” the swap tables and “buy” the yarn/fiber you want by “paying” the owner with the number of 50¢ tickets that add up to the labeled value of the items.
  - If you don't have enough tickets to swap, buy more tickets for 50¢ each.
  - Return your tickets to the Ticket Table at the end of the swap for 50¢ each. This way the original owner will get the money for the items sold not traded.
- The guild will have a **separate table for the yarn and book sale**. ALL yarns and books are \$1.00 each. All sales to benefit the guild. Yarn and books were donated by Jo Compton's family.

Business meeting: time again to nominate officers for the next year!



**December 21 meeting at the Belen Public Library** at 333 Becker Street beginning at 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.

### **Events:**

**Los Lunas Museum of Heritage & Arts 1<sup>st</sup> annual Juried Art Show** deadline for entry is September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2013. Contact Andrea Chavez at 352-7714 for more information.

**State Fair:** September 12 to 22, 2013

**Heart of New Mexico Fiber Gathering** in Moriarty, NM on September 28 and 29.

**Workshop on "Stitched Shibori"**. It will be held on Saturday, October 26, 2013 from 10:00 am - 4:00 pm at the Belen Art League in Belen. This would be a great time to start working on those holiday gifts.

Don't let the word "stitched" scare you. The stitching is done by hand and is actually very simple to do. The trick is in the preparation. The patterns you can create are almost limitless and very beautiful. I've attached pictures of some of my stitched pieces, so that you can see a few possibilities.

The cost for the workshop is \$70.00, which includes the supply fee. You will be provided with fabric to practice your stitching on, and a silk scarf blank for your final project. A supply list and additional details will be provided after you have registered.

Please contact me via email: [lindaearthdreams@aol.com](mailto:lindaearthdreams@aol.com) or phone 505 864-3362 to register.

Looking forward to seeing you. This workshop should be lots of fun and an opportunity to be very creative!

**Wendy Jacob's estate sale: contact Myra at 864-0876**

40 inch **Schacht** Mighty Wolf with stroller. 4 shaft. 6 treadle with bench and saddle bags  
Reeds 12 and 8 dent reeds with cardboard packing leash sticks, stick shuttles and 6 boat shuttles 1 ball winder. 1 bobbin winder  
Swedish wooden swift  
Horizontal Warping mill. 1 yard around  
Ashford rigid heddle loom. 8 dent reed. 12.5 dent reed  
English combs large.  
Yarn holder with legs.  
Cone holder for use on the floor  
Coned yarns cottons 17 cones 1 cone mercerized cotton  
5 partial. cones merc cotton. 1 partial cone peaches n cream  
1 cone tencel. 1 cone yellow Bamboo. 3 partial cones rayon  
3 cones Turk (2). And peach raw silk  
Bag of cotton warp (chain)  
Spool of Navajo wool warp  
2 cones novelty cotton & rayon  
Chenilles & hand spun  
1 Inkle loom. Schacht. 29.5" w/belt shuttle  
Mohair locks  
Knotty nobby  
Fleece. Roving cormo-ram various colors  
5 bins commercial yarns.  
Coned processed yarn from Mora mill 10 cones dark , probably warp (tightly twisted)  
White Cormo skeins, approx 4 ounce  
8 dark brown Cormo-Rambouillet skeins  
3 containers assorted knitting yarn some wool  
1 container cotton knitting yarns  
1.42 pounds roving white from Village Wools (might be "top")

### 8.17.13

#### F2F Guild Meeting Minutes

- 1:00 Myra opened meeting with introductions of members and visitors
- There were two raffle drawings: Don won yarn and Terri won a shawl pin
- Mary Curik is selling books and videos with 10% to the guild
- Free magazines are available
- Ann Szklarz did a great presentation on her spinning class at IWC
- Show and tell with lots of stuff from everyone!

#### Officer's Reports

- Vice President – NTR
- Treasurer - \$20 on raffle today
- Secretary
  - Thank you's read from the Fiber Arts Fiesta donations
  - New website is up and running

#### New Business

- Wendy Jacobs passed away last week
  - Myra recommends a donation to the memorial
  - Terri makes a \$50 donation motion
  - Chip seconded the motion
  - Each member to do a 1' X 2' piece to make into a memorial blanket for Darlene.
- September will be Dye Day
- October – special guest speaker
- November – yarn swap/sale/blowout
  - Ground rules in newsletter
- Los Lunas Museum Juried Art Show
  - Deadline September 25
  - Details in newsletter
- Jo Compton, Don's friend, passed away
  - Myra and Don went through her fiber arts materials, which was donated to the Guild
  - Some items removed for school programs
  - The remaining items will be in the November yarn swap/sale/blowout
- Anne Marie passed out membership cards
- Adjourn 3:40