



FIBER TO FINISH GUILD NEWSLETTER

April 2015



From the weaver's bench:

Have you noticed that many ornamental and fruit trees are in bloom? They are so pretty! I saw several trees with magenta flowers last evening in Rio Communities. In my own courtyard, I have a blooming Asian Pear tree that has beautiful white blossoms, tons of buzzing bees and a lovely light, sweet scent! Spring is in the air! Welcome spring!

I spend a lot of time answering questions about problems people are having with their weaving or looms. Usually they are not terribly difficult and are easily solved. Sometimes, however they are complicated and require a little more than a conversation over the phone! That is when I make a "home visit." The problems range from winding the warp on a beam in the wrong direction (I call this an easy fix) to complex problems involving rethread the loom. The later I call a more labor intensive fix!

Long ago, I learned that weaving (knitting, crochet, sewing, just about any activity) involves a little skill and a whole lot of problem-solving ability. Most of our fiber activities are fairly straight forward and even logical. Sometimes the problems come when we take a "short cut" or invent a "better method" of doing a step. You may know what I mean. The best way back to "work" is to take a deep breath and analyze the situation. Sometimes, as in a recent knitting error, I have to look at what I've done and decide when it went awry. Was it 6 stitches back or was it, in fact, 6 rows before? Once you decide what the problem may be, you can begin to figure out a solution or a correction. There always is one. It may be creative or it may be straight-forward. It is satisfying to work through one of these problems and come up with a solution that fixes it! Of course, there are also lessons to be learned from mistakes. The best lessons is not to repeat the problem/mistake again! Good luck with that.

Keep your hands in fiber,
Myra Chang Thompson

Next meeting: Saturday, April 11, 2015 at the First Baptist Church in Belen.

Program: Coiled Baskets with Janice VanHavermaat. Be prepared for the meeting with a blunt tapestry needle about 2 inches long, worsted weight wool yarn (some will be available) and scissors. Janice will furnish the internal core twine for the baskets. You've seen Janice's baskets at meetings and at sales. Come and make a small one for yourself or to give as a gift.



Upcoming Meetings



May 16 Meeting: Grab Bag Event! At the First Baptist Church in Belen at the corners of Fourth Street and Becker Avenue. Bring 4 ounces of the same size yarn (various colors are okay), ½ yard of woven fabric or fiber

in a brown paper bag. We will exchange the bags at the meeting and discuss what each could become. At the October, 2015 meeting, we will show you everyone's results. Any technique may be used and the goal is to produce an item that can be donated to the shelter for domestic violence families. This program is bound to stimulate a lot of interest.

June 20, 2015 Join us for a dye day! Location to be announced. We will include dyeing with Kool aid for the younger set. More details to follow.

July 18, 2015 Annual Picnic details and location to be announced

Questions?

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

Officers for 2015:

President	Myra Chang Thompson	mchangt@yahoo.com
Vice President	Terri L. Greenlee	tlgreenlee@earthlink.net
Secretary	Sally Nittler	nittlers2@gmail.com
Treasurer	Annmarie Pearson	altbalance@q.com
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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 lots of photos posted from meetings and members' work.

Advertisements:

Free magazines, see Jolene Hansen.

Weaving instruction: contact Myra @ 864-0876

Upcoming Events

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Museum of Heritage and Arts “Second Annual Student Juried Art Show, “Getting Around New Mexico Then & Now” through May 9, 2015, under the water tower in Los Lunas.

Albuquerque Fiber Arts Fiesta May 21, 22 and 23 at the Manual Lujan Building on the State Fair Grounds. Come see Members' work.

Intermountain Weavers Conference in Durango on July 23, 24, 25 and 26, 2015.

El Rancho de las Golondrinas - Spring Festival & Fiber Arts Fair

Costumed villagers shearing sheep, fiber arts marketplace, baking bread and more, plus animals, games and hands-on activities for kids! Fiber arts vendors, and Espanola Valley Fiber Arts Center will have a vendor tent. Saturday & Sunday, June 6th & 7th, 2015 10AM - 4PM

Goodies at the Spiders Market



Meet one of our members:



This month's featured member is **Terri L. Greenlee**. Terri is also our vice president. Terri writes:

I was born in Paso Robles, CA and grew up in Parkfield, CA, the “Earthquake Capital of the World.” We had “The Big One” in 1966; it was very dramatic and put Parkfield on the map. The geologists and seismologists have been swarming over the countryside ever since. Here’s a picture of the bridge that was bent in the quake.

I started elementary school in first grade (there was no kindergarten) at the Parkfield Elementary School. My mom was the school bus driver. The “bus” was

our station wagon. She picked up all the kids on all 3 roads leading to the school, about 20 kids total. After sixth grade, I rode the big yellow school bus 1 hour each way to Shandon for junior high and high school. After that I went to Cal Poly San Luis Obispo and UC Santa Barbara. I have a bachelor’s degree in Computer Science and have been working in Software Engineering since 1977.



When asked what started you out in fiber, Terri noted “it’s always been there. I learned to knit from my mom around age 8 but didn’t really do any knitting until after college. I learned to sew, also from my mom, around age 12. I made all of Barbie’s outfits until I started sewing for myself. By the time we had Home Ec in high school, I and my classmates already knew how to sew pretty well. I made most of my own clothes through college. My sister and I taught ourselves to crochet during high school and did lots of projects for each other and the family. We taught our mom to crochet then too. After college I started working as a computer programmer and, thus having some disposable income, my needlework hobbies took off. I knitted intermittently but my main interests evolved. First there was needlepoint. I designed some of my own designs from beautiful photos found in magazines. Next I transitioned to crewel embroidery, then counted cross-stitch, and lastly back to knitting. There was always some knitting going on, especially for other people’s babies. When I was expecting my first baby, I made my first applique baby quilt. It had little teddy bears in the moon-- so cute, but it was a beginner's effort. Now that I’m going to be a grandma, I’m going to repair it and give it to my daughter for her baby. I subsequently made baby quilts for so many babies in the family I can’t remember how many. Each one was different, self- designed, and had a theme. The last one I did for my sister-in-law had an image of her dog and gardens. The dog is still with her and her son is 12 years old! The rest of the fiber story happened after we moved to New Mexico in 2007. Up until then, all my yarn came from the yarn store. I acquired Angora goats to mow the pasture and learning to spin naturally followed. Then I learned to weave; enabled by our weaving teacher Myra. What a fun journey it has been.

When asked to describe her favorite project, Terri says “I enjoy the process, whether it’s knitting, quilting, sewing, or learning a new thing. My favorite project is the one I’m planning or starting. Once I have mastered the new technique or skill, I lose interest and start planning the next project. I have quite a few unfinished projects because of this.

Terri says that her favorite activity is imagining new projects.

When asked where she looks for inspiration, she quips “colors inspire me. When I see bright vibrant colors I start imagining things I could make. I may start with a practical idea, such as “I need a sweater”, or “I want to knit all the baby things for my daughter” and then begin imagining what colors to use in what combinations. Here’s my current favorite.” (photo from the internet).



When asked about what she'd like to accomplish this year, she said “this year, and it is likely to be a year long project, I am decluttering and organizing the sewing room. So far I’ve sent several carloads of stuff to be donated. I am destashing yarn and fiber. I realize I will never use all of the yarn and fiber and am gifting it to friends and to the guild. You may see some of it in the raffle prizes. I hope you will enjoy using it as much as I enjoyed acquiring it! My plan is to minimize yarn & fiber purchases until the remaining stash shrinks a bit, and to finish some of the UFOs. (unfinished objects)”

Terri was asked what would she like to do that she's always wanted to do. She responded “I think I'm doing it!”

Lastly, Terri was asked what other interests she has. Her response was typical of Terri: “ I love my Kubota tractor! I use it a lot to rototill the weeds on my farm-let. It is so much faster and easier than using a hoe or shovel. The goats have moved on to new homes, so the weeds are now our job. By getting gardening & farm chores done faster, I have more time for knitting. I also started a new hobby last year: photography. So far I am mostly taking pictures of bugs, flowers and the New Mexico sky. The sky is so beautiful, different every day, and filled with inspirational colors.”

