

Threads...

Sorting through the stacks of paper around my desk, I rediscovered some lovely letters from weavers who have a long-time connection to the Midwest Weavers Association. And I was *awed* by how an interest in fiber/thread connects us. The letters contained stories about shows, conferences, looms (one won at a conference), and friends.

How grateful I am to those octogenarians (plus) who took the time to offer encouragement and support at a time when MWA was undergoing change.

Members of the Omaha Weavers and Spinners Guild reflected strong roots/threads to the past when they volunteered to host *Roots*, June 17-23, 2007. *Roots* honors our weaving heritage and recognizes that threads of the past connect us today with many fiber artists and teachers. When participating in *Roots* you may be *awed* by the threads that link us together.

Last October as the five members of the Midwest Weavers Association board gathered to talk about the threads of our

future, discussion included ways we might inform and excite weavers about MWA.

We have a web site and a newsletter, and we have a host guild, Iowa, for a conference in 2009. But what more should we do to ensure the future has a good warp and weft, a good structure, a good fabric called MWA? Any ideas? We welcome your membership, support, and, of course, ideas. Thanks for your continued interest.

Judith Larsen
MWA Board Chairman

2007 Midwest Weavers Conference: Roots

The Omaha Weavers and Spinners Guild is hosting the 2007 Midwest Weavers Conference *Roots*. Dates for pre-conference and conference sessions are June 17-23, 2007.

The conference will be held on the beautiful campus of Dana College in Blair, Nebraska (17 miles northwest of Omaha). Dorm rooms are air conditioned, and there is a large gymnasium for vendors.

Fourteen pre-conference classes will be offered and over 75 mini and maxi

sessions will be available during the conference. The keynote address will be given by Margaret Roach Wheeler, who will share the roots of fiber and textiles in the Great Plains. Layna Bentley, who has long been in the fashion industry, weaving, and behind the scenes, is working closely with Agneta Gaines to put on a fashion show (Prairie Seasons) that will long be remembered. Teachers will be coming from near and afar and include Anita Mayer, Jennifer Moore, Sharon Kilfoyle, Joanne

Tallarovic, Jane Patrick, and many, many more. Classes will be available in weaving, theory, basketry, spinning, dyeing, felting . . . and the list goes on. There will also be exciting textile tours to both Lincoln and Omaha.

Registration will be limited to 300. Please plan on attending what promises to be a fun and stimulating conference and personally thanking the conference organizers for all of their hard work!

Hope to see you in Nebraska in June!

Scholarship Opportunities

There are numerous scholarship opportunities for the 2007 MWA Conference *Roots*. Please check the conference booklet for complete details.

Here's a sampling of what will be offered:

-- THE JACK BAKER SCHOLARSHIP will pay registration and room and board for a MWA member, with less than five years ex-

perience, to attend the MWA conference.

-- MWA SCHOLARSHIPS will be awarded to up to six MWA members and will cover the cost of their conference registration. *One of these scholarships will be designated for a student who is enrolled in a college or university fiber program.*

Applicants will need to submit a letter explaining the role

weaving plays in their life and why they would like to attend the 2007 MWA Conference *Roots*. The letter should include the scholarship the applicant is applying for and their contact information, and it should be sent to Vicki Tardy, Scholarship Chair, **no later than March 1, 2007.**

MWA Board Members

Judith Larsen, Chairman
N67 W5349 Cedar Court
Cedarburg, WI 53012
(262) 377-5767
ljudithwve@aol.com

Carolyn Hart, Secretary
Rt. 3 Box 731
Vandalia, IL 62471
(618) 326-8655
chart@swetland.net

Vicki Tardy
4608 Oak Crest Hill Road SE
Iowa City, IA 52240
(319) 351-5208
vtardy@mchsi.com

Bobbi Humphrey-Stephens,
Treasurer
9046 N. Regent Road
Bayside, WI 53217
(414) 736-0496
NSTEPHENS24@wi.rr.com

Patsy Ek
3222 S. Fairington Drive
Bloomington, Indiana 47403
(812) 333-5211
pek@indiana.edu

Please feel free to contact your MWA Board members with comments and suggestions.

Midwest Weavers Association Web Site Is Up and Running!

- ◆ Do you want to contact a MWA board member?
 - ◆ Are you wondering if there are any neighboring guilds in your area?
 - ◆ Would you like to know about fiber workshops that are being planned for your area?
 - ◆ Did you misplace your last MWA newsletter but would like to refer to one of its articles?
 - ◆ Do you know a fellow weaver who would like to join MWA but needs a membership form?
- You'll be able to find answers to all of these questions by going to the new MWA web site at:
www.midwestweavers.org

www.midwestweavers.org

Guild Corner

- ⇒ ***Bloomington Spinners and Weavers Guild (Indiana)*** meets the third Monday of the month, August through May, at 7 p.m. at St. Thomas Lutheran Church. Programs for the year include locker hooking, warp painting, rigid heddle weaving, tapestry weaving, and always a favorite—their annual auction of fibers, yarns, and equipment. Visitors are welcome! For more information, please contact Marla Dawson at mcdweave@bluemarble.net.
- ⇒ ***The Countryside Spinners and Weavers Guild (Charleston, IL)*** has about eighteen members, who come from as far away as 75 miles. Meetings are on the fourth Monday of the month at 7 p.m. and are either held at the home of guild members or at the weaving studio classroom on the campus of Eastern Illinois University. The guild is made up of fiber artists who weave, spin, knit, dye, embroider, and make baskets. During the year guild members work on several projects. The next project, due March 2007, is for scarves: they will be exchanged so that everyone who made a scarf will get a scarf from someone else. Meetings also include "Show and Tell" so that everyone can see what fellow members are making. For more information, please contact Suzan Braun at sgbraun@consolidated.net.
- ⇒ ***The Craft Guild of Iowa City (Iowa)*** owns its own building at 815 Oakland Avenue, Iowa City. There are active groups in weaving, spinning, quilting, knitting, pottery, glass arts (beading, enameling, and stained glass), and surface design. The weavers group meets on the 4th Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. Programs this year are on baskets, color theory and its application to weaving, Tencel and rayon (how they're alike, how they're different), and Japanese braiding. The group teaches beginning weaving classes each fall. The spinners group meets the 3rd Tuesday at 7:30 p.m. They also offer a beginning class in the fall. Programs scheduled are on blending fibers, wool combing, cotton spinning on a charka, and Shetland wool. This is one of the guilds from Iowa hosting the Midwest Weavers Conference in 2009 in Grinnell.
- ⇒ ***The Manchester Weavers (Wisconsin)*** is a group of weavers of all skill levels who have united to rent studio space in an old school building in Grafton, Wisconsin. With space for fifteen weavers, members find the opportunity to house their looms and equipment and learn from each other, a highlight in their weekly schedules. The studio may be used at any time, but Monday is the preferred day by many. For information, contact the chairman at tauld@kakulis.com or 414-351-0649. There is always room for another loom.
- ⇒ ***The Prairie Weavers Guild of Springfield (Illinois)*** offers to its members opportunities to develop knowledge and skills pertaining to weaving, spinning, and related fiber arts. We structure our meetings to stimulate interest and group interaction in a wide variety of techniques using presentations, demonstrations, and hands-on lessons throughout the year. Additionally, we present demonstrations and displays to educate the public in various aspects of the fiber arts.
- ⇒ ***Wisconsin Handweavers, Inc.*** includes members from around the state of Wisconsin, especially the Milwaukee Metro Area. Approximately 300 members are invited to participate in an annual show and sale, demonstrate at State Fair, volunteer to teach children as well as workshops, and participate in general meetings. Fun and exciting meetings/programs are held at Gaenslen School, 1250 East Burleigh, Milwaukee, from 10 a.m.-2 p.m. the second Saturday, September-December and February-May. A monthly newsletter includes information about the upcoming meeting/program, equipment sales, and a woven sample. Information is available at

(Continued on page 4)

Let us know what is going on in your Guild, and we'll publish it in future newsletters!

Upcoming Workshops



If your guild is hosting other workshops, please send the information to Patsy Ek or Amy Norris for inclusion in the "Events" section of the MWA web site.

- March 1 "Triangle Loom Weaving" (Wisconsin Handweavers, Inc.)
- March 2-3 "Lace Weaves" with Vicki Tardy (Weavers Guild of Minnesota, Minneapolis)
- March 10-12 "Classic Crackle and More" with Susan R. Wilson (Prairie Weavers Guild, Springfield, IL)
- March 24-26 "Linen: Meeting the Challenge" with Vicki Tardy (St. Louis Weavers Guild, Missouri)
- March (TBD) "Warp Painting" with Robin Edmundson (Bloomington Spinners and Weavers Guild, Indiana)
- April 2-3 "Playing with Blocks" with Vicki Tardy (Woodstock Weavers Guild, Illinois)
- April 21-22 "Tapestry Weaving" with Rose Vigil (Bloomington Spinners and Weavers Guild, Indiana)
- May 18-19 "Lace Weaves" with Vicki Tardy (Weavers Guild South, Illinois)
- May (TBD) "Rigid Heddle Weaving" with John Salamone (Bloomington Spinners and Weavers Guild, Indiana)

(Continued from page 3)

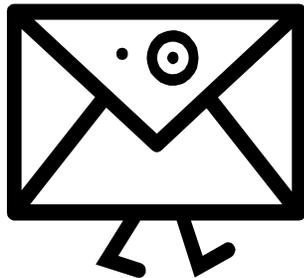
www.wihandweavers.org.
 Wisconsin Handweavers collaborates with the *Alice Bertschy Kadish Memorial Weaving Center* located in the lower level of Gaenslen School. The Center houses over 50 looms, the Handweavers library, a classroom, and facilities for basket making

and dyeing. Classes are held weekdays and evenings for adults and children. Call 414-267-5771 to request class and workshop information.

We would like to let everyone know about guilds and their activities. Please send information about your guild to MWA board member Patsy Ek (pek@indiana.edu) so it can be included in a future newsletter.

Benefits of being a current member of MWA include receiving an annual newsletter and perks for the 2007 ROOTS conference in Nebraska: a conference booklet will be sent to members *at no charge*; non-members will pay a \$25 (non-member) registration fee as well as a separate fee for the conference booklet. So, if you have friends who haven't yet paid their dues for 2006-07, please encourage them to visit the MWA web site, print off a membership form, and send it with their check for \$10 to Amy Norris at their earliest convenience. (Amy's address is 8742 Teasdale Avenue, St. Louis, MO 63124.) It pays to be a member of MWA!

It was approved at the 2005 MWA membership meeting that dues cover a two-year period. **Current dues are for January 2006 through December 2007.**



Address Changes

If you move, please let us know by sending your new mailing information to:

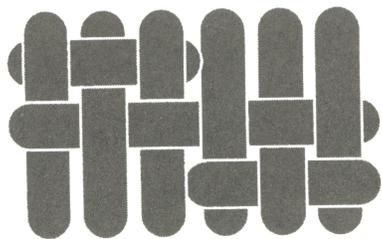
Amy Norris
8742 Teasdale Avenue
St. Louis, MO 63124

or send her an e-mail at: amy@amyfibre.com. Thank you!

Helpful Tips from Weavers' Wisdom: 250 Aids to Happier Weaving, Monograph Two

- Tape a counter to the warping board to keep track of the number of threads.
- When rolling on a narrow warp, a slit mailing tube or roll from paper towels is often superior to paper or sticks.
- When starting a new warp, try carrying a few shots of weft around the ends of the apron rod instead of using thrums or rags to spread the warp. The horizontal tension helps keep the warp from pulling in, the warp is spread quickly with no lumpy start, and warp is saved as well.
- When weaving yardage, make good selvages, which can be used in the tailoring without being bound or overcast. A temple or stretcher is often advisable.
- Use a finer thread of the same fiber and color for the turn-in of a hem to minimize bulk.
- A 24" fluorescent lamp with an adjustable shield (sometimes sold as an aquarium light) mounted on the front of the castle gives a strong shadowless light..





Midwest Weavers
ASSOCIATION, INC.

The official newsletter of

Midwest Weavers' Association
c/o Amy Norris
8742 Teasdale Avenue
St. Louis, Missouri 63124-1926

E-mail: amy@amyfibre.com

More Helpful Tips

(Continued from page 5)

- A handle on the beater will increase the speed and quality of your weaving. The handle should be installed on the front of the beater and carefully centered.
- Chemical dyes change color as they fade; vegetable dyes get lighter.
- In designing stripes, a single thread in a stripe gives the effect of a running stitch.
- Give your loom, like your automobile, a periodic inspection to check for loosened bolts, sticky heddle bars, and signs of potential breakdown.

Did you know . . .

MWA member states include Arkansas, Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Michigan, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, Ohio, Oklahoma, South Dakota, Texas, and Wisconsin, although members actually come from several other states as well.