

## Notes from the Chair...

As summer quickly turns to autumn, I've been reflecting on how the changing seasons affect how we practice our crafts.

For some of us, summer brings fewer social obligations, vacation days, and holiday weekends that open up time to weave, spin, and pursue our fiber interests.

Others fill the summer with gardening and outdoor activities while their looms and wheels stay idle.

Autumn and spring can also be filled with activities that distract us from our crafts, but the canvas of colors Mother Nature paints throughout these seasons provides endless inspiration for future projects.

And it's probably safe to say that many of us find refuge from the long Midwestern winters in our studios, where working with fiber adds warmth and color to otherwise cold and dreary days.

Of course, the luckiest of fiber hobbyists are those who find (or make) time every day to throw a shuttle, card some wool, paint a warp, or simply dream about and plan the next project.

Regardless of whether you practice your fiber art year round or as the seasons allow, I hope you will plan one project in the coming months to display at the 2015 Midwest Weavers' Conference.

The Weaver's Guild of Minnesota has put together an exciting program that includes both exhibits and a fashion show where members can display their work. How splendid would those exhibits be if every member who attends the conference were to submit just one item?

Consider this my challenge to all of you. Even if you don't take home an award, everyone is a winner when exhibits are brimming with innovative and beautifully executed fiber objects.

But just as we look forward to our time in Minnesota, we must also start to plan for future MWA conferences. We currently have a host committee for the 2017 meeting, but we are seeking hosts for conferences in 2019 and beyond. Confer-

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## MWA Scholarships For *Urban Fiber with a Minnesota*

**Deadline for scholarship applications is February 1st!**

If you would like to attend the 2015 Midwest Weavers Conference and need some financial help to do so, take the time to apply for a scholarship.

The MWA Board will support as many as twelve scholarships for the 2015 conference.

Three of the awards will include conference registration fees, room, and board.

A weaver with less than five years experience will receive the Jack A. Baker Scholarship, and two other all-inclusive awards will be given to weavers who demonstrate financial need.

The remaining scholarships will provide registration fees for the conference.

Carolyn Sue Balde and Margaret "Peg" Dawson were the winners from the drawing that was held during the last MWA business meeting. They will each receive a scholarship to cover the cost of their registration to the upcoming MWA conference in Minnesota.

In the conference booklet and on the conference and MWA websites, you will find details on applying for a scholarship and application deadlines.

Scholarships are awarded following a blind review of

applications by an independent committee. Previous scholarship awardees are not eligible.

If you have additional questions, please contact Linda Ryden, scholarship coordinator.



## Weaving Bright Gifts for Cancer Patients

Back in 2009, the Iowa Federation of Handweavers and Spinners challenged weavers who were mounting guild exhibits at the In the Heartland MWA Conference to incorporate a service project or community outreach into their exhibit planning.

The weavers from the Craft Guild of Iowa City took on two projects: weaving baby blankets for local hospitals and providing pillows for mastectomy patients at the University of Iowa Hospitals.

Five years later, the weavers are still delivering pillows to the cancer center a couple of times a year. To date, almost 400 have been distributed to grateful patients.

The heart-shaped pillows are used to cushion the mastectomy site and provide protection when wearing a seat belt. Each pillow has a cover of handwoven cotton that is backed with commercial fabric. Weave structure and col-

ors are chosen by the individual weaver, although bright colors are preferred.

The Guild encourages its weavers to add an extra half-yard or more to every cotton warp they wind in order to weave cloth for the pillow tops.

A guild loom has also been threaded with a long warp for members to weave off, and other members weave yardage for pillows as a way to

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## Looking forward—2015 MWA Conference

*Urban Fiber  
with a Minnesota Twist*  
2015 Midwest Weavers  
Conference  
June 18-20, 2015  
Minneapolis/St. Paul, MN

The Weavers Guild of Minnesota invites you to Midwest Weavers Conference 2015, *Urban Fiber with a Minnesota Twist*, in the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul June 18-20. Preconference workshops will be held June 15 to 17 at the University of St. Thomas (UST) and the Textile Center, a national center for textile arts and home of the Weaver Guild of Minnesota.

We are so excited to host this conference and hope you'll

want to arrive early or stay a day or so after the conference ends to enjoy the Twin Cities' shopping, museums, galleries, and outdoor activities.

Our conference location in St. Paul, UST, is in a quiet, safe, residential area on the bluff of the Mississippi River. The residence halls are convenient and comfortable (air-conditioned), the campus cafeteria provides a variety of good food, and parking is plentiful and free.

Join us...

Start out your conference visit by joining us on Wednesday, June 17 for an evening theater performance

at the world-renowned Guthrie Theater. Register early as ticket quantities are limited.

Spend your time on Thursday, June 18 enjoying one of our four fabulous bus tours to museums, studios, theaters, factories, and farms. Or spend the day shopping, on your own, visit the Textile Center via our free conference shuttle.

You'll want to be sure to attend the Thursday, June 18 conference opening and keynote presentation by Catherine Friend, an award-winning author who raises sheep and cattle on a small farm in southeastern Minnesota. Her talk, entitled

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MARK YOUR  
CALENDARS —  
Registration begins  
January 12, 2015.

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"Weaving Chaos: A Life of Wool, Writing, and Disobedient Sheep," should be quite entertaining.

We've packed our conference schedule with a tempting array of classes in topics such as weave structures and design, spinning, felting, dyeing, braiding, beading, jewelry, and sewing. Half and full day classes are scheduled for Friday and Saturday, June 19 and June 20.

During the conference, enjoy the exhibit entries from members and guild. Vendors will tempt you with wonderful products, equipment, and materials. See incredible garments in the Minnesota Twist fashion show on Friday, June 19.

Free shuttles will be available to take you from UST to the Textile Center. You'll be able to visit the Weavers Guild of Minnesota offices and classrooms, see the Small Expressions exhibit. Small Expressions is an annual international juried exhibit sponsored by the Handweavers Guild of America, Inc., to showcase fiber art on a small scale.

We hope you'll want to share your fiber creations by entering items in the exhibits or in the fashion show. The deadline for entry is May 1st, 2015.

### Preconference Schedule

For those who can spend more time here in Minnesota, start your week by choosing from one of the following 12 three-day preconference workshops (June 15, 16 and 17):

- 1) More Double Weaves on Four, Jennifer Moore;
- 2) Cutting Loose with Tied Weaves, Robyn Spady;
- 3) A Tablet Weavers Hat Trick: Three Techniques in Three Days, John Mullarkey;
- 4) Finnish Style Cotton Rugs, Wynne Matilla;
- 5) Ply-Split Baskets and Beyond, Katherine Buenger;
- 6) Warp Rep: Warping and Weaving Tips and Techniques, Donna Hanson;
- 7) Surprise! Color and Weave Effects, Susan Wilson;
- 8) Hands on Color, Cameron Taylor-Brown;
- 9) Color Options: Spinning & Dyeing Painted Roving, Patsy Zawistoski;

- 10) Crimp and Create, Dianne Totten;
- 11) Sew Your Handwovens, Liz Spear;
- 12) I Can Do That? Advance Techniques For the Rigid Heddle Loom, Jane Patrick.

Goodie Bag donations are welcome...

If your Guild members are interested in making items to be included in the Goodie Bag given to participants, please send an email to: [midwestweaversconference2015@gmail.com](mailto:midwestweaversconference2015@gmail.com). Please type GOODIE BAG in the subject line. The deadline for receipt of these items is May 15, 2015.

Visit the Website [www.midwestweavers.org](http://www.midwestweavers.org) for updates as they become available, and watch your mailboxes for the registration booklet in December. (In order to receive the printed booklet you must pay your

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Midwest Weavers Association dues by November 1, 2014.)

Registration begins January 12, 2015. Early registration closes on March 13. All registration closes on April 17.

If you have questions, please email us at [midwestweaver-conference2015@gmail.com](mailto:midwestweaver-conference2015@gmail.com)



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play with structures and color.

When yardage sufficient for several dozen pillows has been collected, fusible interfacing is ironed onto the handwoven fabric, backing fabric is chosen from remnants donated from member's stashes, and the hearts are cut out.

After the pillow cases have been machine sewn together, the weavers gather for a stuff-and-stitch session to fill the pillows with batting and hand stitch the openings.

There is always lots of oo-hing-and-aahing about the whimsical and charming combinations of colors and fabrics.

Please join us next June for *Urban Fiber with a Minnesota Twist* in the Twin Cities of Minneapolis and St. Paul.

The Iowa City Guild members stay engaged with this project because so many of their lives have been touched by breast cancer—either their own or that of someone close to them.

The Guild also receives positive feedback from the cancer center and the patients who receive the pillows. A recent note from a recipient stated, "Thanks for this beautiful pillow. In an otherwise horrible day, it was a beacon of light, a thing that made me smile."

**Does your local guild connect with your community in a special way? If so, we'd like to share your story in this newsletter. Send the details to newsletter editor, Patsy Ek, and we will try to include one or two in**

## Fiber Artists of Distinction

We have many talented weavers in MWA and, as a result, have established an award to honor them. This award is based on a point system, and when a weaver has accumulated 25 points, they will receive the Fiber Artist of Distinction Award. Points will be earned by receiving either 1st place or a named award (3 points), 2nd place (2 points), or 3rd place or honorable mention (1 point) at MWA conference competitions.

Once a person has received the Fiber Artist of Distinction Award, their name will be published in the next MWA newsletter and will be added to the honor roll that will be posted on MWA's web site.

The following fiber artists, and numerous others, are on their way to receiving this award:

- Vicki Tardy (21 points)
- Peggy Baldwin (11 points)
- Wynne Matilla (9 points)
- Mary Boulet (8 points)
- Marcia Kosmerchock (8 points)

Each of the following people all have 6 points:

- Louise French
- Bonnie Hay
- Julie Hurd
- Betty Huttner
- Ann Massmore
- Ann Maxvill
- Karen York

## Corrections to the Awards List from MWA Conference 2013 *Prairie Winds*

### Twisting in the Winds

1. Vicky Tardy
2. Regina Shaver
3. Mary Boulet

### Dust in the Winds

1. Ronna Robertson
2. Vicky Tardy
3. Jeff Reynolds

### Throw Caution to the Wind

1. Cathy Willoughby
2. Lolly Buxton
3. Abe Buddish

### Colors of the Wind

1. Vicky Tardy
2. Marcia Kosmerchok
3. Kala Exworthy

### Dancing on the Breeze

1. Vicky Tardy
2. Jean Williams
3. Ellen Houseward

### Born upon the Breeze

1. Tracey Graham
2. Ann Maxvill
3. Stephanie VanHousen

### Winds of Change

1. Carol Ann Parker
2. Tracey Graham
3. Judy Santner

## Attention Midwest Guilds!!

Please take a few minutes to visit MWA's web site:

[www.midwestweavers.org](http://www.midwestweavers.org)

to make sure your guild is listed on MWA's web site and that its contact information current. Please contact John Mullarkey with all updates.

And if your guild is hosting a workshop or some other fiber-related activity, please send that information to John Mullarkey, MWA's web site manager, and he would be happy to post the event on the MWA web site. This is a service MWA is happy to provide to guilds *at no charge*.

Congratulations to each and every one of you!!

## Future MWA Conferences—WE NEED YOUR HELP!

A contingent of weavers, spinners, and other fiber enthusiasts from Indiana have stepped forward as hosts for MWA conference 2017 -- thank you Indiana! After that, though, no one has offered to host the 2019 conference or beyond. We need your help in identifying hosts for future MWA conferences.

There are a number of benefits from hosting a conference: your guild(s) receive an

honorarium; free conference registration, room and board for up to two future MWA chairs/co-chairs; free registration to the conference immediately following the one you hosted for up to two chairs/co-chairs/committee members/their designees; and the positive impact the conference will have on your community-at-large, your guild, and you.

If you or your local guild(s) are interested in learning about

what's involved in hosting a conference, please contact any MWA board member. We also invite you to attend the Leadership Breakfast, while in Minnesota, which will also provide insights into this exciting activity.

It's not too early to determine the location for the 2019 MWA conference. We hope to hear from you soon!

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!

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ence organizers have the opportunity to shape conference activities to reflect the individuality of their communities and to showcase local teachers and artists.

If you think that your local guild or state fiber organization might embrace this opportunity, then be sure to sign up for the Leadership Breakfast when you register for MWA 2015. The MWA board and former conference organizers will be present to

share their experiences and offer encouragement.

You can also find the Conference guidelines on the MWA website or contact any board member for more information.

For now, I'm heading to my loom to finish the first of several projects I hope to send to Minnesota.

I'm looking forward to seeing many of you and your fiber projects there.

## A dues reminder for your fiber friends and fellow Guild members...

It's not too late for them to pay dues for 2014-15!

As you know, membership dues are collected on a biennial basis. The initial call for 2014-15 dues went out in the last newsletter (November 2011).

If you received a mailed copy of this newsletter, your membership is paid up. Thank you!

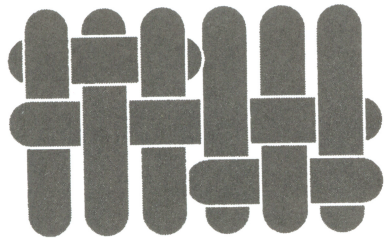
**One of the most important benefits of membership is receiving a free copy of the conference registration booklet as soon as it's available. Extra booklets are no longer being printed, so if you're not a member at the time of the initial mailing to paid members, you'll need to print a copy of the booklet from the conference web site.**

Membership dues also help defray the cost of conference scholarships, newsletter mailings, and web site maintenance.

So, this is a great opportunity to remind your fiber friends and fellow Guild members to renew or join. They can find a membership form on our website:

[www.midwestweavers.org](http://www.midwestweavers.org)

And remember, if you're ever wondering about your status, you'll find a list of all current members on the MWA web site.



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ASSOCIATION, INC.

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