



Williamsburg Spinners & Weavers Guild

P.O. Box 2086
Williamsburg, VA 23187
<http://williamsburgspinweave.org>

May 2021 Newsletter
Next Meeting Monday June 21, 2021
Social Time 9:50-10:00
ZOOM Meeting 10:00-12:00

Program: SPRANG!



WILLIAMSBURG SPINNERS & WEAVERS GUILD

MAY 17, 2021 MONTHLY MEETING

10:00 AM on ZOOM video call. Special Thanks to MAFA for making the ZOOM program available to its member guilds. Meeting brought to order by President (and ZOOM guru) Dave Banks.

Attendees: Dave, Cindy, Liz V, Sandi, Linda C, Linda A., Tina, Ingrid, Claudia, Janet G., Marsha, Debbie, Jaime, Dee, Kathy

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

MINUTES: Accepted.

TREASURERS REPORT:

We have \$4,310.57 in the treasury, and 45 Paid Members!

PROGRAMS AND WORKSHOPS: We're excited about Dee's June Program on Dyeing, and July's program will be hearing from everyone who went to MAFA. In August, Liz will discuss Yarn Finishing: different techniques for washing, setting and preparing your handspun yarns to suit your yarn and project. Linda will show us Beginning Card Weaving in September. The current list of the rest of the programs is at the end of the minutes. If you have any ideas for future programs or workshops for our guild, please let Cindy know.

STUDY GROUP: Later in the year, we are going to set up a Study Group on, Josephine Estes Overshot Miniatures Patterns, based on the free downloadable patterns available at Weavers Marketplace. [Patterns and an entire page of cool things are at:

https://www2.cs.arizona.edu/patterns/weaving/wtopic_overshot.html

- The patterns are in 2 parts in the Monograph section. [Cindy also sent out files via email, so you can print them yourselves from her files, or from the webpage.] Cindy and Rosemary have done a few samples, and found it exciting! There are over 40 patterns available. It won't be right away, so think about if you would like to participate. All you need is a 4-shaft loom. Narrow looms are fine for miniatures! We're still discussing how we will proceed. Let Sandi or Cindy know if you want to participate. There are some beautiful patterns out there!

Our treasury is flush enough to pay for workshops on a myriad of topics. If you learn of any teachers, topics or ideas that would be interesting, please let Cindy know, or bring them up during the next meetings. Also, Kris Wessler has volunteered to help Cindy research Workshop ideas. Maybe we can schedule some on weekends or weeknights so those who work 9-5 can enjoy them, too. We are hoping to schedule workshops on all our fiber arts, including knitting, crocheting, spinning, felting, dying, weaving, ... there are so many possibilities!

WEBSITE:

Dave has started posting videos of our Zoom Meetings and Programs on the website and/or our YouTube site, for members who can't attend live. Great way to keep up, and to enjoy our informative programs! Check our website for links (www.williamsburgspinweave.org).

To liven up our Home Page and Background, Kathy sent pictures of our Banner to Dave to put on the Home Page. If you can, when you send your Show and Tell pictures to Janet for the newsletter, please CC (carbon-copy) Dave so he can add color and interest to our website.

OLD BUSINESS:

MAFA: Registration opened April 10 at 9AM for the MAFA 2021 Virtual Conference, June 24-27, 2021. Just identify our guild in the registration process. Go to their website mafafiber.org for information on the many, many classes, contests, and events they will be having online during this summer event.

Over 700 Registrants have already signed up for classes, averaging about 3 classes each. Some classes filled up 9 SECONDS after registration opened, but there are still many fun classes available. (Also, if a desired class is full, you can email the registrar to get put onto a Waiting List.) Don't forget to enter the contests. I know our members are producing great fiber art that would be very competitive in the MAFA contests. Looks like it will be great fun!

MEETINGS: We discussed the future of our meetings. Most of us have our vaccines, so we want to start meeting again in person (contingent on the new rules being updated by the government). But the Zoom meetings have been great, too, especially for those of us who live out of town or are travel-

challenged. We discussed that we might continue to use Zoom, but also meet together in person perhaps every quarter or every other month, and include Zoom with our live meetings. Our In-person meetings would be good for some of the programs that would be nice to do interactively, hands-on. King of Glory Church and the James City County Rec Center both have fast Wi-Fi capable of handling Zoom Meetings.

King of Glory might charge a fee, even for non-profit organizations like ours, so we are trying to verify that amount. The local libraries had increased their fees before the shutdowns, so we're trying to find a reliable place that is more inexpensive. None of our usual haunts are open yet, but we are researching to find out when they will be available.

How do you feel about meeting in person again? We will be sending out a Survey via email to get a feel for how eager or reluctant we all are to gather together. Please try to respond. We want input from all of our members, not just the ones who can Zoom! We're Fiber Folk, so obviously we love to touch and feel the various fibers and projects, and do hands-on programs. And we dearly miss our friends who can't access Zoom easily. Obviously, we will comply with government mandates, but perhaps small groups could meet in someone's house for the first few meetings if we have folks who want to get together before our normal venues are open to the public. (e.g., Dave has good Wi-Fi, and can accommodate up to 6-7 people.)

1? Do you feel comfy meeting in person? When do you think you might feel good about it?

2? If we have combined Live + Zoom meetings, would you attend in person or via Zoom, or would it depend on: (the program, the weather, your health, your location, or your availability of pants that fit after Covid)?

3? Until the larger meeting rooms are available, would you be willing to meet in small groups in

someone's house, especially if you can't meet online?

4? If we met in a small group in someone's house, would you want assurance that the other visitors have had their Covid shots?

We appreciate your responses! You can reply to my email (coming soon), or send your responses to Liz Vonasek at Gmail address vadistaff@... (I broke up the email address to defeat scammers' email address grabbers!) Thanks so much!

NEW BUSINESS:

The Handweavers Guild of America (HGA) has a program called Textiles and Tea. We can sponsor a Textiles and Tea Event for \$150. Per HGA: "Through sponsorship you can reach new audiences and connect with the fiber community in their homes.

We know from our Spinning & Weaving Week events that an average of 1,000 people viewed our videos either live or recorded. These numbers will only grow as our event grows in popularity.

Sponsorship includes

**Recognition at the beginning and end of each broadcast (also to be recorded and shared on Facebook Live and HGA's YouTube channel).

**Emails sent to HGA's mailing list of nearly 11,000 promoting the event with you listed as a sponsor and a link to your website.

**Promotion of the event along with your sponsorship on HGA's social media platforms: Instagram (2,400+ followers), Twitter (1,300+ followers) and Facebook (5,700+ page likes and 6,200+ followers).

**Identified as event sponsor on HGA's website and on the event listing on the HGA Fiber Art Calendar ".

We are offering introductory sponsorship packages at \$150 per Textiles & Tea episode or four episodes for \$500 (call HGA for 4-episode discount). Your sponsorship helps HGA to promote the fiber arts and supports the artists who create. Will you be a sponsor?"

Sandi Moved that we sponsor a \$150 introductory sponsorship package, and it carried unanimously.

SHOW AND TELL

Please remember to send pictures to Janet G before or just after each meeting, so she can post it in the next newsletter, so we can all enjoy the fruits of your labors! As she says, the pictures are my favorite part! Also, please copy Dave on the pictures, so he can have some of our beautiful artwork to post on our webpage!

JANET showed us a beautiful woven blanket in blues and purples. She used clasped weft to create lovely diagonals, and ribbons in the weft, and ribbons in the warp, weighted with fishing weights! So smart!

SANDI was so productive! She made amazing cotton towels with Log Cabin patterns but with several types of inset point twill squares. Ooh-la-la! She made towels in Purple & white, in dark blue & white, and some she made with a yarn dyed with Persimmon! She also made a 13"x6' fabric with a variegated yarn in Log Cabin pattern, with lovely subtle patterning. She used up some Denim blue wool to weave a fabric with thin white stripes. Just for a change, she wove a sample wool rug in large dark & light blocks. Cool technique!

TINA felted a lovely purse/bag with Polwarth wool (felt so soft when done!), and then Eco-printed with no chemicals, using the "Dirty Pot" technique to get botanical shapes and colors on it. Turned out great – much more colorful than I would have anticipated. Then she tried the Eco-printing on a largish piece of leather. She did have to use chemicals on the leather, but the Eucalyptus leaves and Gerbera Daisies really popped!

LIZ showed off an unusual Roman Ring Distaff (copied from glass & bronze Bird Ring Distaves from Roman antiquity). The ring slips over your pinkie finger, and the short stick is held in your hand, so you can wrap fiber around the stick, ready for spinning on a spindle. A floating disk prevents the fiber from sticking to your hand, and a lovely hand-carved dove sits on top. It came in a set with a Multi-whorl Drop or Supported Spindle that uses up to three removable whorls to make several different weight options to enable the spinner to make multiple sizes of yarns. They were purchased (as a set only) from Bobbin Boy (Facebook name "Bobbin Boy" or at www.chessspy.com) by Alan Dewey & Milissa Ellison Dewey.

LINDA C. also showed a new-to-us tool, a gorgeous Cherry & Hard Maple Folding Card or Tablet Weaving Frame (tape loom with rolling beams). It was 31" long, but comes apart at the middle and one end nests into the other end to shorten almost by half, leaving a handle for easy carrying, or for hanging on the wall (recommended due to its beauty!!!) I'd love one just to look at! Take a look at the artist's work at jkseidel.com.

KATHY showed a fascinating woven cotton Crimp Cloth Vest she made (Pink, Yellow, & Purple). She made a sample using an Overshot Pattern and Pointed Twill, and by accident, made a section of fabric with "bubbles." She liked it so much, she made it on purpose, using the bubble effect on the Vest bottom, bust and shoulders, and weaving a smoother Crimp Cloth at the waist. It makes the Vest nip in at the waist, very flattering, and the bubbles are so interesting and flattering, too! Her warp stripes were planned so well, they matched perfectly at the side and back seams.

CINDY had made numerous Overshot pattern samples from a "Handweavers Guild of the New River Valley" workshop on Josephine Estes Miniature Overshot patterns, using 8/2 cotton. Patterns and more info is available at:

https://www2.cs.arizona.edu/patterns/weaving/wtopic_overshot.html

[Part 1 & 2 under Monographs] Then she showed us a new adventure: a former student found some of her Great-Great-Grandmothers Weaving notes & drafts, written in 19th century in Carroll County, Virginia. She found Gay McGeary to translate them in modern drafts, and Cindy wove samples of 4 of them. They were all Overshot, with 12-hread floats in blocks. The patterns were so cool, ranging from

plain blocks (needs border!), "Coverlet" with blocks and non-symmetric frames between blocks, "Cross" like Coverlet, but symmetric, and "United States" with the blocks and a huck-like fabric. It was fascinating to see the old-time drafts, and

to see a real-life example of how much regional written drafts differ from one area to another. (Gay McGeary is teaching classes at MAFA this summer.

Here is an interesting YouTube interview with her on Coverlets:

<https://m.youtube.com/watch?v=1aB9E-GZLPc>)

DEE was knitting a Qiviut hat in natural tans & browns, that looked like you just wanted to jump into it and snuggle down for a long warm nap! (Like [the Mitten](#), a storybook where all the forest animals snuggle into a lost mitten!) She was also knitting the second sock of a pair in luscious variegated purples. She completed our trifecta of new gadgets by showing a nifty Bobbin Winder Drill Bit she recently got from the Woolery. Search the Woolery website www.woolery.com, for "Rosie's Bobbin Speed Winder Insert." It allows you to use your own drill or cordless screwdriver to wind your weaving bobbins, with ease! So cool! (\$\$\$ Alert! To get our Woolery Guild Reward Program \$\$\$, go to our guild website, and then click on the link to the Woolery (WGRP) link, allowing the Woolery to track the purchase you make back to our guild.)

PROGRAM: SPRING INTO SPRANG!

This month Tina demonstrated! Sprang is a fascinating method of weaving without a fancy loom. You just won't believe it 'till you see it! It creates a wonderfully net-like stretchy fabric that is great for shopping totes, marble bags, and hammocks! Cindy sent out several SPRANG handouts that she and Tina found on the internet, but I just didn't "get it" until I saw Tina's demonstration. Watching her warping and weaving to create Sprang really helped me understand how this actually works. This is such a cool weaving technique. You only need a very rudimentary frame and dowel beams to hold your warp while you weave. It is the only weaving technique that I've seen where you start to weave in the middle, and one pick weaves the fabric on both ends!!! It is also a cool feeling to connect to the techniques and methods used by our ancestors, back to the Vikings!

We recorded this program, and Tina will be recording additional videos to show how she finished the project. Dave will post them (or links to them) on our Guild website. (www.williamsburgspinweave.org)

Thanks so much to Tina and Cindy for their research and especially to Tina for her testing and practice, and for sharing and demonstrating for us. I really appreciate the time Tina took to learn this just to be able to teach us. We have such gifted and giving members in our guild!

WSWG CALENDAR:

MONTHLY MEETINGS:

Every Month on the third Monday, 10:00 AM to 12:00 PM Programs are subject to change. We are so thankful to have so many volunteers to teach us new and inspiring ideas!

ZOOM Meeting ID: 821 7387 9085 Passcode: 445227

JUNE 21 Program: Dee's Dye Pot! Dee will show us how she made her wonderful dyed fibers and yarns using various food dyes that everyone can easily obtain and use on your own fabrics, fibers and yarns.

JULY 19 Program: MAFA Show and Tell: We can Show & Tell with our purchased goodies, and tips & stories from our classes and seminars and contests from MAFA! Fun!

AUGUST 16 Program: Finishing Yarns: Liz will discuss and demonstrate Whacking and Snapping and Sizing (Oh My!), and other ways of washing & finishing your handspun yarns to match your project.

SEPTEMBER 20 Program: Beginning Card Weaving! Linda will show us how

Everyone can weave beautiful sturdy tapes (ribbons) with an inexpensive deck of Weaving Cards.

OCTOBER 18 Program: Indigo Dye Pot with Tina. Hopefully we'll all have our shots by then to be able to work with Tina's Magic Indigo Dye Pot, and see effects on different fibers.

NOVEMBER 15 Program: Cookie Cutter Needle Felting: Goodie with show us how to use everyday cookie cutters to felt various shapes, and to embellish them to make beautiful decorations, ornaments or gifts. Perfect Timing for Christmas!

DECEMBER 20 Program: Holiday Party and Challenge Projects: Our Challenge this year is "Disasters and Resurrections in the Pandemic." What have you made that demonstrates how the Pandemic has affected your Artwork? (Have you made more things? Fewer things? Gloomier? Cheerier? Any project disasters that epitomize how you feel? ...?)

2022: We are excited about upcoming topics, like Indian Pebble Weave, Color and Weave with other Fabric structures, Spinning for Knitting (or Knitting with handspun!), More on Card Weaving, Supplemental Warps, Shadow Weaves, so many possibilities! Please contact Cindy if you have any ideas that you would like to see in our Programs. She would love more Knitting, Crocheting, Spinning, Felting

and non-weaving ideas for those of us who don't weave (Yet! Bwa-ha-ha!).

EVENING SIP AND CHATS:

Every Month on the last Wednesday, 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

ZOOM Meeting ID: 850 3868 2137 Passcode: 029615

2021: May 26; Jun 30; Jul 28; Aug 25; Sep 29; Oct 27; Nov 24; Dec 29

AFTERNOON SIP AND CHATS:

Every Month on the second Tuesday, 2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

ZOOM Meeting ID: 810 0687 1327, Passcode: 180174

2021: Jun 8; Jul 13; Aug 10; Sep 14; Oct 12; Nov 9; Dec 14

SPIN-IN ZOOM:

Every Month on the second Wednesday, 1:00 PM,

ZOOM Meeting ID: 834 369 9744, Passcode: 1Tujh6, look for emails from Dee S for direct link.

2021: Jun 9; Jul 14; Aug 11; Sep 8; Oct 13; Nov 10; Dec 8.

UPCOMING FIBER EVENTS:

Due to the pandemic, many upcoming festivals and demos are still in planning. However, if there is a distant

festival that you have always wanted to attend, look them up now! So many groups are holding their festivals online or virtually. For instance, the New York State Sheep and Wool Festival in Rhinebeck is on for October 16 & 17, 2021, with a mixture of in-person and online classes and sales. The same for New Hampshire, Vermont, Wisconsin, etc. I'd never be able to attend in person, but there could be many cool classes I could take online. Now's the time to try them out!

MAFA will be holding its 2021 Conference virtually this year, June 24-27, 2021! Go to their website for information on the many, many classes, contests, and events they will be having online during this summer event. Looks like it will be great fun! mafafiber.org Make sure to identify our guild if you register. Over 700 Registrants have already signed up for classes, averaging about 3 classes each. Some classes filled up 9 SECONDS after registration opened, but there are still many fun classes available. (Also, if a desired class is full, you can email the registrar to get put onto a Waiting List.) The MAFA Catalog for their 2021 MAFA Conference (June 24-27) was posted on 2/19/21. Check it out for many opportunities! Unlike previous years, most of the classes are only a few hours, so you can take advantage of many selections. Please consider looking at the website to see what contests you might be interested in entering. I'm sure that our members have many winners among their recent accomplishments! They need entries for the "Fiber Arts" and "Fashion" contests, and I know we have numerous items, even just from the last meeting, that would be appreciated (and very competitive). You don't even have to ship them to the organizers, just pics & videos - so cool! Check the MAFA website

mafafiber.org for details.

HGA TEXTILES & TEA, every Tuesday, 4:00 PM EST to 5:00 PM EST. The Handweavers Guild of America Inc. is excited to announce our new program, Textiles & Tea. Each week HGA will host a conversation with some of the most respected fiber artists in the field today. In our 45-minute discussion we will focus on their artwork and their creative journey. We will allow 15 minutes at the end

of our conversation for questions from the audience. Textiles & Tea will take place every Tuesday at 4:00 PM

(EST) beginning in January 2021 and will be broadcast via Zoom. These broadcasts will be free to view and open to all. Google "HGA Textiles & Tea" or go to <https://weavespindye.org/textiles-and-tea/> to register. Registrants who are not able to login to Zoom at the time of the event may also watch the program live on HGA's Facebook page. A link will be provided in the registration confirmation email.

HGA 2022 Convergence, July 15-21: The Handweavers Guild Association will be holding its 2022 Convergence at the Knoxville Convention Center, Tennessee in the lovely Smoky Mountains. Check out information at weavespindye.org.

SEFF 2021 Southeast Fiber Forum Festival April 15-18 has been postponed until April 2023. Check out sefiberforun.org for more details.

ONLINE WORKSHOPS:

Central Virginia Fiber Arts Guild invites us to share this class info with our guild members! Sign-ups for several online ZOOM workshops are available. Cindy sent an email on Feb 18 with clickable links to sign up for these classes, or go to the CVFG website, cvfg.org. Email programs@cvfg.org for more information.

(Break for the Summer)

9/11/21: Weaving Doup Leno with Daryl Lancaster

10/9/21: Double-faced Weaves Lecture with Robyn Spady

10/23/21: Pattern Draft Your Own Lounge Pants with Cal Patch

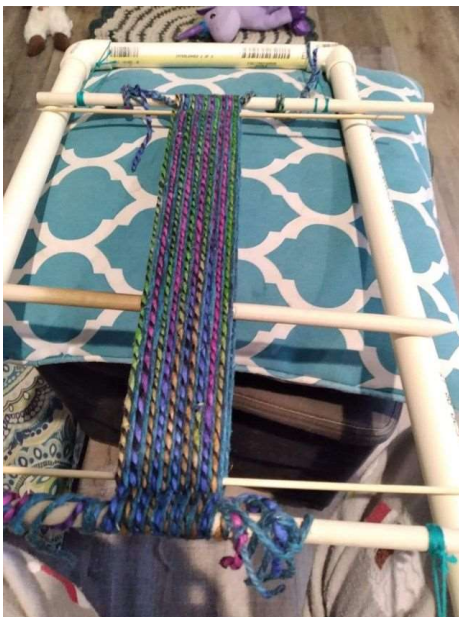
Williamsburg Spinners and Weavers Guild Membership:

If you would like to join the Williamsburg Spinners and Weavers Guild, please check our website for a membership form, (www.williamsburgspinweave.org) and mail it with your dues to:

Williamsburg Spinners and Weavers Guild, PO BOX 2086, Williamsburg, VA 23187-2086

Sorry, we have no PayPal, online or credit card options at this time. We welcome all Fiber Artists, beginners to experienced, in person or online! One good thing about the challenges of 2020 is the creation of ways to allow online members to become new friends!

Five fabulous friends sent in photos;



Tina shows her set-up for sprang weaving.



Sandi's wool rayon yardage
And test rug with blocks. Her log Cabin with variegated silk, and Log Cabin in twill blocks.





Cindy's Carol Strickler pattern in 8/2 cotton, and crimp cloth (same warp). She continued with several overshot patterns from a workshop on line.



Janet wove a Saori-style blanket/shawl.

