

Williamsburg Spinners & Weavers Guild

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

October 2021 Newsletter Next Meeting Monday November 15, 2021 Social Time 9:50-10:00 ZOOM Meeting 10:00-12:00

Should we all try an Indigo Dye Pot!



WILLIAMSBURG SPINNERS & WEAVERS GUILD OCTOBER 18, 2021 MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Meeting held 10/18/21, at 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. **NOTE** NEW ZOOM Meeting ID: 893 5418 6955 Passcode: 997997

Attendees: Cindy, Liz, Izabela, Linda, Sandi, Debbie R, Marsha, Kris, Jaime, Claudia, Rosemary, Lisa, Janie, Pam, Judy, and at Tina's house: Tina, Dave, Dee, Janet, Goodie, Ingrid

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

MINUTES: Correction: Marsha's cool Tote Bags were misidentified as being made on Card Looms, but were made on Cardboard Looms. Whoops! Otherwise, Accepted.

TREASURERS REPORT: We have lots of \$\$\$ in the treasury! We need to transfer the Bank Account to the new treasurer, as soon as we finish elections!

PROGRAMS AND WORKSHOPS: The November guild meeting - Goodies' Cookie Cutter Felt pins and ornaments - will be at the JCC Rec Center Nov 15, at the regular time. Perfect Timing for Christmas! This is the first time we might get together since the pandemic started. Wow! For those unable to make it or not going out around folks yet -we will also have a zoom part of the group. Goodie will show us how to use everyday cookie cutters to needle felt various shapes, and to embellish them to make beautiful decorations, ornaments or gifts. There is a full description of this program at the end of the newsletter, with a **supplies list**. If you will be "zooming" into the meeting, start now gathering holiday colored fiber, yarns, and doodads, with open tin cookie cutters. You have plenty of time to buy felting needles and 2" foam slab for the felting cushion. (And get your Tetanus shot!) See full description, **supply list** and details at the end of the newsletter. This will be great fun, either together or on Zoom!!!

We have reserved the James City County Recreation Center for November and December. It'll feel like going Home! In December, we will present our Challenge projects, and have our Christmas Party, in person, and on Zoom.

In January, we will have a program on Overshot, to start off our Overshot Study Group.

If you have any ideas for future programs or workshops for our guild, please let Cindy know. Cindy has a preliminary list of topics for 2022. Cindy has a lot of options that she has been researching, with commercial teachers, for our programs and potential workshops. For instance,

- Daryl Lancaster has lots of possible online weaving presentations from 1, 1.5, 2, 2.5, 4, and 4.5 hours long, to 1–5-day workshops. Most are about weaving and sewing garments, but many on topics such as Color and Inspiration, Mystery of Fit, Closures, Seam and Edge Finishing, Advanced Inkle Loom techniques, and other topics useful to all. Could be meeting programs, or separate presentations, perhaps evenings or weekends. Rave Reviews!!
- John Mullarkey has several classes on Card weaving, like for making shoelaces, 2 different warping methods, and other Introductory and Intermediate classes.
- Kris Bruland at Handweaving.net has many How-To weaving classes and hour-long programs, some may be appropriate for nights or weekends. (Like many of us, he has a day job!!)
- Jill Staubitz (\$20-\$30 a person,), <u>www.modernweaver.com</u> has classes on weaving drafts, like designing, turning or blending drafts, drafting for blocks, or drafting for huck designs.

- Karen Donde @ karendondehandwovens.com, holds classes on weaving design, structure & technique,
- Patsy Zawistowski, (or Patsy Z), the Hand Spinning Guru @ Spinninguru.com: 1.5 2-hour Programs and Presentations, in addition to Workshops. So many topics, like yarn structures or spinning yarns for knitting or weaving, to many on spinning & using different types of fibers, like silk, lopi/tog/thel, luxury wools, manufactured fibers, & plant fibers.

Check out their websites! See anything you like, let us know! If you can suggest any other teachers, we are open to researching them. We'd like to mix it up to get a variety of interesting classes, like knitting, crocheting, felting, spinning, etc.

STUDY GROUP: We 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.] We have about 20 people signed up, so we can get a lot of cool samples. Cindy has done about 20 samples of her pattern, each includes 2 treadling variations of her selected pattern, and found it exciting! (Each sett has 1, 2, or 3 treadling patterns.) There are over 40 sett patterns available. It won't be starting officially until January, so think about if you would like to participate. All you need is a 4-shaft (or more) loom. Narrow tabletop looms are fine for these miniatures; they just need to be wide enough to make one repeat of the pattern! Let Sandi or Cindy know if you want to participate. There are some beautiful patterns out there! Pick one of the pattern, or email Cindy to see if someone picked a pattern you want to pick. Cindy emailed out a list of patterns and sign-ups to check out (on 9/28/21), and see what is available if you want to sign up. Hurry, though, so everyone has time to make enough samples for all the participants!

WEBSITE and NEWSLETTER

CAN YOU HELP? When you send your Show and Tell pictures to Janet G (jjfishn@cox.net) for the newsletter, please CC (carbon-copy) Dave (dfbanks@earthlink.net) so he can add color and interest to our website. We think your art is beautiful!!!! And Janet would LOVE more pictures from your Show & Tell. Pickings are slim lately, but we've seen some gorgeous items in Show & Tell that we would love to show to the whole membership. Please remember to email quick snaps to Janet & Dave before or right after the meeting.

MAFA: MAFA made \$60,000 on their 2021 Conference, held online this summer!! What a relief: they were sure that they would lose money. That bodes well for future online conference options, even when they start to meet in person again. They also held Officer elections, and our own Dave Banks was elected to continue to be Webmaster!

HGA: We have sent in our renewal to HGA. Handweavers Guild of America (Shuttle, Spindle & Dye pot Magazine) is holding their HGA Convergence in the Smoky Mountains in 2022! It will be in Knoxville, Tennessee July 15-21. Check out their website for many options (weavespindye.org). You can sign up for various in-person or online packages, from one day to single classes to multi-day packages.

OLD BUSINESS:

MEETINGS: have reserved the James City County Recreation Center (Home!) for November and December. We will also plan to continue to use Zoom during all these meetings for those who cannot attend in person. We might consider doing January (Overshot Program) and February over Zoom only, due to possible weather issues.

NOMINATIONS: Please consider nominations for 2022 officers. Who would you nominate? What position would you be willing to accept? We are opening nominations for officers in September, for voting in November. The current officers and Newsletter Creator have all agreed to continue if nominated, but we are open to new nominations. Also, we need a new person to manage our Loaner Locker. I think Claudia has a list, but we need to manage where these items are stored before being loaned out to individuals or for demonstrations. Get your names ready! Can you take a turn being an officer, just for one year? (I hear the Secretary has been falling down on the job, lately!! Turning in her Minutes weeks late, Tsk, Tsk!!!) Or, consider your opportunities for 2023. Vice Pres. Cindy will be stepping down, as will Secretary Liz, after 2022.

REMINDER: Challenge Projects: Remember that our Challenge this year is "Disasters and Resurrections in the Pandemic." What have you made that demonstrates how the Pandemic has affected your fibery Artwork? (Have you made more things? Fewer things? Gloomier? Cheerier? Any project disasters that epitomize how you feel? ...?). We'll be presenting our Challenge Projects at our December Meeting/Holiday Party! (Whether in person or via Zoom.)

NEW BUSINESS:

Demos: Most of our normal festivals and events where we demo have been cancelled for 2021. We'll keep investigating.

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! I always scroll to the end of the newsletter first, to see the pretty pictures!

Kris showed a knitted yellow Baby blanket (Pebble Stitch and Cascade Anchor Bay cotton); and a Ravelry pattern Chai Popover sleeveless T-Top (Berrocco Chai linen/silk) with a surprisingly soft, drapey hand. (The linen gets softer as you knit it.) She also sent pictures of a third item, a Fiesta Table Runner (Lunatic Fringe) – a woven plaid that looks like Stained Glass Church Window!

Sandi did a creative clean-out of her woven scraps. She made some adorable items with bits of leftover

Marsha showed a beautiful merino/cashmere/tencel scarf with fringe, in greens & pinks, woven on her 8 shaft, a lovely treadling variation on M's & W's. She said it feels so NICE! She made it during a "Stash Class" with Jan & Janet (?). She uses a Merino/Cashmere blend yarn from Spain in tiny stripes, Tencel for the rest. So nice to use a treasured gifted yarn.

Rosemary cleaned out her closet and sorted a bunch of her yarns. She showed her second crocheted blanket (Battenburg Blanket pattern from Ravelry, but with smaller squares), made from a bunch of squares using a bagful of her washable yarns from her cleanout, like Red Heart. She checkerboarded the multi-colored yarns

with white squares, with lovely harmonious results. She might make more for her family, to use up all those "nasty" extra yarns. Win-Win: Clean out the closet, and those yarns are perfect for washable blankets!

Tina showed a gorgeous black VooDoo skein of yarn with black feathers and orange balls that she made in her "Spin Together" week. It won in her group, and will now advance to the next competition. Go, Tina!! So talented!

Janet and her fun Witchy hat showed off two lovely striped bluesy Ruanas woven with a striped broken twill accent! One used more white yarns, both had great accent color and/or twill stripes and bands. She used a soft cotton yarn that made a lovely drapey fabric.

Ingrid reminded us that she has a bunch of WSWG dying supplies, so we can do additional dye days!

Goodie entered her "Lottie Cardinal" needle felted sculpture in a Juried Show at Charles Taylor Visual Arts Center in Hampton. A little Birdie told me that she has won the Award of Distinction in Sculpture for her felted piece "Lottie's Cardinal" at the The Virginia Artists Exhibition! The show's virtual opening is 10/23/21. You can go in person, but you have to have an appointment. Congratulations, Goodie! Well Deserved recognition!!!

Debbie purchased some of Goodie's cute needle-felted Pumpkins (such personalities!) and even purchased a perfect glass display box to show them off while protecting them from the kitties! Way too cute to allow the kitties to "modify" and hide! Unique display, allowing her to turn the box to display Happy Punkin, or Wry, Rolling Eyes Punkin, or Fascinated Punkin, depending on her mood! Fun punkins, Goodie, and perfect display case, Debbie!

Cindy has been wrestling with an old WWII-era counterbalance loom for about 4 years (a Swedish heirloom made by a Swedish Dad as a wedding gift for his daughter who married a GI – aww!). After a <u>scary</u> time assembling and reassembling, (it had termite damage and the weirdest brake we've ever seen), and she got it to work! She made Napkins with 10/2, with linear color gradients (with cool tracking) from Michelle Benson, to match the color of placemats she made a while back in a Jennifer Morris class (complimentary plain weave / double weave), converting a Cat Tracks & Snails Trails Overshot pattern. There was a lesson in her book on converting overshot to plain weave or double weave, double thickness, nice and sturdy. Lovely waves with paw prints on the placemats, and great patterns on the color-matching napkins.

Judy showed pics of some lovely towels, using curved gradients. The warp was white and charcoal grey, weft was blues, green, teal, or reds. They have a 3-D effect if you tilt them just right, looking like an undulating surface. She also used an Atwater Bronson Lace Kit (August 2021 kit) from Vermont Weaving Supplies to make several colors of beautiful patterned towels (looks like flowers all over the pattern). She also made a set of Candy Cane Towels (to fill an order for 20 towels placed last December!) And in her spare time, she knit two Wingspan Lacing shawls, one made with a handspun silk single plied with merino, the other with Wool & Acrylic ("Wingspan" pattern on Ravelry - mindless knitting!?! The color blocks will really use up your leftover yarns!). The circular notched harlequin shawls look so elegant and unique.

PROGRAM: MAGIC INDIGO DYING TINA PARMAN

Tina showed us her Magic Indigo Dye Pot, and demo'd the effects on different fibers. Her tips & tricks were fun and so useful. Dave, Goodie, Janet, Dee, and Ingrid really had fun dipping their fibers, yarns and fabrics.

She definitely recommended using a mask while measuring the dye stuffs, and reminded us that any tools or pots used for dying should never be used for foodstuffs in the future. Her ingredients were pretty non-toxic, but Safety First! Also, wear blue or dark clothing. The powder WILL GO EVERYWHERE, so be forewarned. Highly recommended to do this outside, with any pets inside – even Tina kept her chickens safely in their coops!

Make sure to prewash, and presoak in plain water any items to be dyed. Any hand oils or sizing or spinning oils will probably cause blotchy dying, or the dye may "crock" or rub off easily once dry.

She used a ratio of 4-4-4 to make her indigo dye pot:

4 half-gallons of warm water (2 gallons, but 4 half-gallons makes it easier to remember!!!)

4 Tablespoons of Arm & Hammer Laundry Booster

** Stir NOW or regret later! When dissolved, add:

4 teaspoons of Powdered Natural Indigo (she gets this from the Woolery because they have a nice sturdy container, but also available from Dharma, Earth Guild and other dye sources, but they usually use zip-top bags.) If using Woad, use 6 teaspoons (1.5 tsp Woad per half-gallon water).

2 packages Rit Color Remover (seems to be cheapest from Joanne's)

Stir gently but well, trying not to introduce any air into the water. Let sit for a few minutes. The pot water will not be blue. Eventually, you will see a coppery sheen on top. It's ready!

You'll notice the recipe is easy to increase or decrease with her magic ratio! You can keep this pot going by just adding more ingredients using the same ratio.

To dip your items, presoak them in plain water for at least 30 minutes to an hour. (No, you don't need a mordant!!! YAY!) You can soak overnight, too. Squeeze out excess water. Then dip into the dye pot. For this first dip, you can soak for 30 minutes, or for 3 days! Then pull out the item, squeezing out excess dye water.

MAGIC! After this first dip, the item will be YELLOW/GREEN! It will slowly turn blue as the dye reacts with the oxygen in the air. Oooh, Ahhhhh! It will turn blue faster if you rinse it in clear plain water (more concentrated oxygen). Hang or lay the item out to complete the presto-chango process of turning blue. Give it a minimum of 20 minutes to see the final color. If it is too light, you can re-dip the item into the dyebath, for 5-20 minutes. (Some think that soaking a re-dip item for longer than 10-20 minutes will start to remove some of the original color.) Remove, squeeze, rinse, and give it 20 minutes minimum to see the blue. Keep redipping for deeper color, if desired. (I have to say that other indigo pots I've seen took 20 dips to get navy blue. Tina got navy blue from just one loooong dip! Luv It!)

Tina dyed many different fibers, yarns and fabrics from her copious stash, (silks, wools, feathers, and others) and it all came out fantastic! Each fiber absorbs dye differently, especially protein vs. vegetative fibers, so experiment. She also showed us many previously dyed items she had made, like wet-felted items she made from Indigo and Woad dyed fibers. Shows how washfast the Indigo & Woad are, since wet felting is the ultimate washing experience!!!

Goodie, Janet, Dee, and Ingrid had fun dipping their fibers, yarns and fabrics, too. They also tried tie-dye methods to get patterns of white and blue, like braiding roving/top, or using tight ties. Goodie specially folded and tied a lovely blouse, and it was stunning: a beautiful pattern of angels & dragonflies & bats, Oh My!

This was a terrific success. Thanks so much to Tina for sharing her experience and supplies to demonstrate this fun dying process. I've always thought I needed complicated instructions and ingredients, and fermentation time, and outside cooking equipment, and it was just too hard. Tina made it so easy!!! Thanks, Tina, for letting some of us come to your home to participate, and thanks to Dave and Dee and the others for participating with

their items. Also, many thanks to Dave and Dee and the others for such great camera work for our numerous Zoom watchers. Great Job, all!

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! **** NEW ZOOM Meeting ID: 893 5418 6955 Passcode: 997997

NOVEMBER 15 Program: Cookie Cutter Needle Felting: Goodie will show us how to use everyday cookie cutters to felt various shapes, and to embellish them to make beautiful pins, decorations, ornaments or gifts. Perfect Timing for Christmas! Details and a Supply List of items to bring are below (Last page?). Goodie and Cindy will be ordering felting needles on Oct 15, please call Cindy let her know if you need some, and you can pay her at the meeting.

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? ...?)

JANUARY 17 PROGRAM: Overshot Weaving. This will be a great Jump-Off to our Overshot Miniatures Study Group, starting in January. Might this be a good program to do on Zoom only? Weather is often iffy in January & February. Let's discuss location at the next meeting.

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, Something fun with a Rigid heddle loom, Warping a multi shaft loom, Color confidence with Daryl Lancaster, Leftovers with Daryl Lancaster, Having a program/workshop on handweaving.net, Log Cabin weaving on a triangle loom, a bias continuous warp/weave on a potholder loom, Spin in, Best tips for Spinning, weaving, knitting and felting, Favorite tools for Spinning, weaving, knitting or felting, Exploration of shadow weave, Finishing ideas with Liz and Ann, Wrapping color cards for design ideas, Kumehimo with beads, Springtime tie dye get together, Jane's wall pockets (Cindy has a couple ideas for this - could be rigid heddle or multi shaft looms), Backstrap weaving demo by Micki Pugh's husband, Andean Pebble weave on inkle loom or backstrap loom, Using your spinning, OR Stuff swap! Clean out your un-used weaving/spinning/dyeing/knitting items. Swap for other's un-used cool stuff. 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: 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: 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: 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. But, 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. There are Festivals in 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! "Local" Festivals to attend as participants are opening up, too.

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."

Remember that our Guild sponsored one of these programs!

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 latest information at weavespindye.org. There is a wide range of in-person and online options!

ONLINE WORKSHOPS:

Central Virginia Fiber Arts Guild invites us to share their class info with our guild members! Sign-ups for several online ZOOM workshops are available. Go to the CVFG website, cvfg.org for latest details and newest classes. Email programs@cvfg.org for more information.

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 print 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 & 2021 is the creation of ways to allow online members to become new friends!

November 2021 PROGRAM DETAILS

Date: November 15, 2021 Time: 9:30-noon Location: JCC Rec Center, Williamsburg Va. Program title: Cookie Cutter Felting Program Presenter: Gudrun (Goodie) Kiel-Bullock

Description: Our talented fiber artist Goodie will show us how to make a needle felted pin or ornament. She will have some of her beautiful work to admire and inspire us. She will demo how to start one, make it, then how it

needs to be finished. This will be a face to face - in person meeting for those comfortable to attend that way. We will be at the JCC Rec center in Williamsburg (our old meeting place) for the first time since the pandemic started. Wow. Dave is going to bring his laptop and we'll also have the zoom get together at the same time. So those who are far away, or not able or comfortable to be face to face at this point in the pandemic (is it ever going to go away?), can join us over zoom.

SUPPLY LIST for each participant to bring: (or have at home for over zoom):

Foam for felting - needs to be at least 2" thick to accommodate the needle without damaging the surface underneath,

<u>Cookie cutter</u> * must be open without a lip or handle because the needle needs to always go straight up and down. * Those bendy open tin cookie cutters are good (but without a handle). There are some similar plastic cutters, but, again, make sure there is nothing obstructing the access to the wool in the middle. <u>Fiber</u> if you want a particular color. A coarser wool works best in needle felting.

For those attending in person - Goodie will bring some coarse wool fiber (again, if you want a particular color, please bring it along). She'll also bring some cookie cutters to share, a couple pieces of foam in case anyone forgets theirs, and a few felting needles if you want to purchase some from her.

<u>Needles for felting</u> - Michael's often has these in a little set sometimes labeled as coarse or fine. For this project the needle gauge won't make much of a difference, but if you want to know the gauge, Goodie recommends 38-gauge triangle for coarse, and a 42 gauge triangle for the fine.





GO, Kris, GO! Awesome linen/silk knitted popover top! Liz was correct about the stained glass look on Kris' runner. And then she had energy to knit a baby blanket!





Sandi works

on such diverse projects! All framed and ready to love, (or hug!).





Cindy is another weaver who surely does not sleep since she accomplishes so many diverse and different projects! Amazing double weave "Cat tracks and snail trail" pattern.



Debbie was so taken by Goodie's needle felted "Punkins", she bought nearly all!

Judy has been very busy helping to suppy Rice Hughlett's Tavern Country Craft Store!



We have two to show (and she has 16 more!).



Janet pulled two fabrics from her Macomber...

