



Williamsburg Spinners & Weavers Guild

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

November 2021 Newsletter
Next Meeting
December 20, Monday, 2021
Social Time 9:30-10:00
In-person Meeting
ZOOM Meeting 10:00-12:00



WILLIAMSBURG SPINNERS & WEAVERS GUILD
NOVEMBER 15, 2021 MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Meeting held 11/15/21, at 10:00 AM on ZOOM video call AND at James City County Recreation Center. 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.

DECEMBER: We will be meeting both in person at the James City County Rec Center, AND over ZOOM.

ZOOM Meeting ID: 893 5418 6955 Passcode: 997997 TIME: 9:50 AM TO 12:00 PM

James City County Recreation Center TIME: 9:30 AM TO 12:00 PM

5301 Long Hill Rd, Williamsburg, VA 23188, Phone: (757) 259-4200

Attendees: JCC Rec Center: Dave, Dee, Barbara, Goodie, Ingrid, Sandi, Kathy, Janie, Kris, Catherine
Zoom: Cindy, Liz, Claudia, Marsha, Jessica, Janet, Debbie

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

MINUTES: Accepted.

TREASURERS REPORT: We have lots of \$\$\$ in the treasury, \$3847.82! Oh, hurray: Workshops! We will transfer the Bank Account to the 2022 treasurer, as soon as we finish elections (today).

Remember to bring your **2022 Annual Dues, due in December, still \$20.** If you attend via Zoom or can't make the meeting, you can mail the dues in to the usual address:

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, so check or cash only, please.

PROGRAMS AND WORKSHOPS: PARTY! In December, we will have our Holiday Party, in person, and also on Zoom. **We will also present our Challenge projects: "Disasters and Resurrections in the Pandemic!"** If you attend in person at the Rec Center, we hope you can bring a Holiday Snack! (I hear there was lots of good food at the November meeting, too!) It is so fun to get together and Par-Tay!

In January, we will have a program on Overshot, to start off our Overshot Study Group. Looks like we have a lot of participation for the Study Group!

REMINDER: Challenge Projects: Remember that our Challenge this year has been "Disasters and Resurrections in the Pandemic." What have you made that demonstrates how the Pandemic has affected your fiber Artwork? (Have you made more things? Fewer things? Gloomier? Cheerier? Any project disasters that epitomize how you feel? ...?).

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, but is still finalizing the schedule. We also have a lot of options that she has been researching, with commercial teachers, for our programs and potential workshops. For instance, she got a lot of requests for Daryl Lancaster workshops on "Color and Inspiration" and on "Using Leftover Weaving Bits in Design"; Color has more votes than Leftovers, so Cindy will pursue scheduling that as a program. She also got specific requests for Beginning Card Weaving with John Mullarkey and perhaps a class from Handweaving.net (would have to be evening or weekend).

Cindy may be calling you soon to finalize her schedule for February-December! Please help out!

If you have a preference, let Cindy know now, so she can prioritize options, especially for purchased Programs and Workshops. Just for info:

- 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, on nights or weekends. (Like many of us, he has a day job!!)
- Jill Staubitz (\$20-\$30 a person,), www.modernweaver.com 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 patterns that Cindy emailed for your own sample! Check out your emails to see who signed up for what 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.

FACEBOOK: Jessica alerted us that Facebook has changed the rules of public vs Private Groups. Non-members can now see and comment on public pages without Admin approval. So, we will have to change our Group to Private. However, this will prevent potential new members from looking at our posts and seeing our Group information (points of contact, meeting info, etc.). So, Jessica will set up a new, additional Facebook Group for us that will be Public, with all the good info on it to attract new members, and they will then be referred to our usual Facebook Group when they are members. Thanks, Jessica, for catching this situation, and taking care of it!!!

MAFA & HGA: No new reports.

OLD BUSINESS:

MEETINGS: We have reserved the James City County Recreation Center (Home!) for December, and the next few months. We will also plan to continue to use Zoom during all these meetings for those who cannot attend in person. We had discussed that we might not use the Rec Center in January & February, but we might lose our reservation of the room in the Rec Center if we don't continue to reserve it, so we will continue to use both the Rec Center and Zoom. A few of the most local folks can use the room if the weather is bad, to show our participation. (Of course, safety first! No risk-taking during Nor'easters or snowy days!)

OFFICER ELECTIONS: Nominations for the 2022 Guild Officers are all of the current 2021 Guild Officers:

President: Dave Banks

Vice President: Cindy French

Treasurer: Kathy Kuhn

Secretary: Liz Vonasek

We took a vote, and nominees were accepted unanimously. We only had 17 members attending, and we usually require a quorum, but we unanimously decided to temporarily set aside that requirement due to COVID issues, especially since no one is running opposed, (and no one else is willing to do it!). Thanks so much to all of the Officers for taking on this responsibility again, especially after such a challenging year. It is harder than it looks to manage everything at a distance. I'm surprised at how much the Officers used to be able to do at the regular meetings in little sidebars before or after the meetings started.

Congratulations, Dave, Cindy, Kathy and Liz!

And special thanks to those who have agreed to do other duties for the Guild like Janet for the Newsletter, Jessica for Facebook, and Techno Zoom Wizard Dave, and others storing and maintaining our Guild magazines, books, and equipment Loaner Locker.

NEW BUSINESS:

It was so exciting to meet in person again! Great to see long-lost friends!

It took a few moments to set up and optimize the Zoom equipment for the first time there, but Dave pulled a rabbit out of the hat (angora? Ha-ha) and got it up and running. Hurray, Dave! He also set up an optimized seat for our "Show and Tell" time. Great work, Dave and all who helped!

It was also nice to re-institute the mid-meeting break and snack! Apparently, several folks brought treats to the Rec Center, and had a nice time sharing. YUMmmmm! Wish I was there!

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!

Dee spun a HUGE skein of beautiful hand dyed Blue Silk yarn (food coloring). Lovely! She also showed a stunning black Leno Lace scarf (she said "weaving experiment!?" – I say "successful!"), and wove a smaller overshot sampler using blue silk yarn (from hand dyed silk hankies).

Barbara attended a workshop at Five Rivers Fiber Guild on decoupage art (from pictures cut out of holiday napkins), and showed off some of the art she made on oysters, so cute! And, she showed such a neat, fun, crocheted standing man (almost finished). She has been busy knitting baby hats and blankets for donation to "From the Heart" who distributes it to Richmond recipients, so sweet, and a very dramatic knitted scarf with alternating diagonal blocks. That's a fun project!

Goodie showed a neat scenic weaving she did on a ring (embroidery ring?), and small bags she wove on cardboard looms, but with DNC embroidery thread! So nice to see that fine fabric and detail in person.

Ingrid had a lot of leftover bobbins from weaving many towels, so she wove a striped sampler. It became a great demonstration of the different shrink rates of the different fibers! She also showed a cool “new” old book for our Guild Library: “Loom Music” by Sandin & Henderson has lots of cool patterns. Great newsletters, drafts and diagrams, nice sample of what was being done in Canada in 1945-1960!

Sandi continued using those precious handwoven scraps and sewed an adorable Owl! She also made a sampler of towels, and then wove 20 more towels with a linen warp (from a box of gifted linen) and cotton weft. (It also became a great demonstration of the different shrink rates of the different fibers!) Whew, that’s a lot of drying! As Dave said, she is a member of Overachievers Anonymous!

Kathy showed a lovely triangle blue plaid shawl that she made for a friend soon undergoing a stem cell transplant, so there were many requirements, like no animal fibers, no fringe. I’m sure this will cheer her up, and snuggle her with love!

Janie joined Overachievers Anonymous, too. She used a LOT of her handspun (from her drop spindle [Wow!], the Guild Lendrum, and her new-to-her Country Craftsman) to make a knitted gorgeous shawlette (looks and drapes like a large collar), a knitted and lightly washer-felted purse/tote, and five knitted hats. She also crocheted a large throw rug from her sister’s primitive Shetland sheep, in many stripes of beautiful natural sheepy colors, and crocheted a big blue tote that held all of her Show-and-Tells!

Catherine showed a lovely green & blue wet-felted purse that she intricately decorated with beads, and the strap from a handmade 4-strand kumihimo braid. All ready to go out on the town!

Tina showed a very lovely and unique convertible triangle shawl in reds and blues. She wove it with cleverly placed arm slits that enabled her to wear it in many different ways, from a traditional triangle shawl to a drapery long vest. We saw four or five different looks just today, and such a lovely model!

Marsha gave us a short tour of the various pieces of framed fiber art and other art on her back wall, most made by her, but the star of the show was a large framed crocheted doily made by her “Bubba” (maternal grandmother and extraordinary needlewoman), and framed by her mom. What a lovely homage to the family.

Janet had an announcement: there is a 36” loom in Gloucester available for sale for \$350 (negotiable) with extra parts. It has been being used as a rug loom, so it is in working condition, complete, and sturdy! Janet also showed two triangle shawls that she wove on her triangle loom (instant gratification!), and an intricate hand-sized wet-felted flower to adorn a hat that her friend is making.

Liz announced that the Maryland Sheep & Wool Festival had so much success with the online classes, they decided to hold a virtual Winter Fest on January 29-30, 2022. Two days of virtual spinning, knitting, felting, and crochet classes. Go to sheepandwool.org for details. Registration is now open!

Jessica showed us a new craft form that I’ve never seen: Diamond Painting (one brand is Diamond Dotz). It’s a combination of cross-stitch and paint-by-numbers. Just lay out colored resin rhinestones to richly-pigmented and pre-glued canvases. As a result, you get unique sparkling diamond paintings that shimmer and shine. She was almost finished on a large (16x20?) painting. The kits come in many sizes and levels of difficulty and styles, from Van Gogh to cartoons to sports themes. She has found it to be extremely relaxing and satisfying.

Claudia showed a double-sided quilt, given to her by a cousin, who was trying to figure out who made it. It was obviously made with love, with pieced fabric animals and flowers, and lots of squares. Some of the sections had been made with cloth from Claudia's childhood pajamas! But there is a lovely attribution sewed onto one corner, with names and dates: "Machine Pieced by Susie Moody Barlow in Suffolk Approximately 1959 Hand Quilted by Stell D. Pierce Franklin Virginia 2003." What an heirloom! Claudia also told us about some of the whimsical art on the wall behind her. It is made with paper, by a local renowned folk artist called Momma Girl, on the Eastern Shore. Claudia was lucky enough to get a Rooster in Boots, a Butterfly with Watermelon Wings (Watermelon is a favorite theme of hers), and a Crab with a watermelon center. Fun!

PROGRAM: COOKIE CUTTER FELTING GUDRUN (GOODIE) KIEL-BULLOCK

This was such an interesting program. While Goodie made needle felting look so easy, this program really showed me how much skill and talent and knowledge it takes to make the beautiful art Goodie makes, like her pumpkins, animals, and her award-winning "Lotti's Cardinal." I can't imagine how many "pokes" it took to make Lotti!

We used wool, straight sided Cookie Cutters (with no top, edges or handles over the opening), and single felting needles. Goodie recommended using a lower number rougher needle for starting off, or for large projects, like a #38. Then use a higher number finer needle for final shaping and finishing, like #42. Have Band Aids handy, and a current Tetanus shot!

She likes to use coarser wool for felting, like Perendale, Lincoln or Romney. Finer wools like Merino will felt, but will take forever. If the wool is too wiry, it is harder to get the surface to be smooth – little fiber ends will stick out.

- When showing us how to make our own Cookie Cutter shapes, Goodie fluffed up enough wool to fill the cookie cutter for about 1/3" to 2/3" – you will be adding more later to smooth the edges and plump the center or top. Put the cutter on the foam to protect your work surface (and your needle). Put the wool into the cutter, filling evenly, out to the edges and in any nooks or crannies. Then take your felting needle and stab into the wool straight up & down, many times until the fiber becomes felted. ALWAYS stab **straight** up and down, or you will break your needle.
- Stab some, flip it over, smooth the other side by stabbing more, add more fiber and stab more, until it approaches the thickness you like. You can take it out of the mold when it is firm enough to hold the shape. If it is felting into the foam, try shallower stabs to smooth the surface.
- Goodie likes to round and smooth the edges by holding the shape vertically, and poking into the edges toward the center. BE CAREFUL – some people like to fold a small piece of thin cardboard to hold the shaped fiber while poking the edges – it is easy to poke your fingers while doing this. This will also make the shape smaller. If you don't want the shape to shrink, don't poke so much on the edge-to-center.
- Pick the side that looks best for the top. Put the shape on the foam, and with the top facing up, poke straight down on the edges to tighten the edges and create a rounded center. You want to keep the other side flat if you want to fasten a pin onto the back.
- Feel the shape, and if there are any thin spots, dab a bit more fiber on the spot, and poke it to felt it into the spot.

- If the edges are too fuzzy or undefined, you can pull some additional fibers to align them, then wrap them perpendicularly around the edge, then poke to fasten on each side.
- Goodie likes to make her items about ½" to 1" thick as final thickness. It is easier to add more wool than to subtract wool.
- Decorating tips: Sew on beads and decorations. A good work light is very helpful when working with beads! She uses #11 beads, matching color 1 ply embroidery thread, or the thin sparkly threads, or doubled thinner silk threads or other sewing threads.
- Start from the back by taking a couple of stitches (no knots), then go through to the front, grab the bead, go to the back. Try to keep the stitches hidden, but don't go crazy, because after you are done decorating, you can add more wool to the back surface to cover the back stitches! She uses a running stitch on the front to make patterns.
- Sew the pin onto the back, hiding the stitches as much as possible, or covering with more wool. A short needle will be VERY helpful when sewing on the pin! Make sure to center it, and position it as high as possible, to prevent the shape from flopping over or tilting.
- To do final finishing and smoothing, use the tip of your finest, thinnest felting needle, and poke with lots of short stabs. Then use a Quilting iron, with the tiny (1" to 2") iron head, and iron the surface. BE CAREFUL! Don't burn yourself! But this will smooth out the last little fuzzies on the surface.

Goodie even showed us how to make felted wool beads! Use Merino (it will make a smoother bead), wrap it around a small tube (i.e., coffee stirrer, to make a hole in the center) until it is the right size, maybe 1/3 to twice the size of your desired size. Then stab around the edges, turning the straw/bead as you stab. When it holds together, wet it with hot soapy water (still on the straw), and roll between your hands until felted and smooth. Rinse and let dry.

This was so much fun! Goodie's tips and the Cookie Cutter made it so simple to make pins & ornaments in specific shapes. I will definitely be making some more pins and ornaments this holiday season, but I also have a new appreciation for the challenges of needle felting.

P.S. I just updated my Tetanus Shot!!!



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! We will be

meeting both in person at the James City County Rec Center, AND over ZOOM.

ZOOM Meeting ID: 893 5418 6955 Passcode: 997997 TIME: 9:50 AM TO 12:00 PM

James City County Recreation Center

Social Time: 9:30 to 10:00 AM, Meeting Time: 9:30 AM TO 12:00 PM

5301 Long Hill Rd, Williamsburg, VA 23188, Phone: (757) 259-4200

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? ...?) Also, feel free to bring Holiday snacks and treats!

JANUARY 17 Program: Overshot Weaving. This will be a great Jump-Off to our Overshot Miniatures Study Group, starting in January.

2022: Feb 21, Mar 21, Apr 18, May 16, Jun 20, Jul 18, Aug 15, Sep 19, Oct 17, Nov 21, Dec 19

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: Dec 29 **2022:** Jan 26, Feb 23, Mar 30, Apr 27, May 25, Jun 29, Jul 27, Aug 31, Sep 28, Oct 26, Nov 30, Dec 28

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: Dec 14 **2022:** Jan 11, Feb 8, Mar 8, Apr 12, May 10, Jun 14, Jul 12, Aug 9, Sep 13, Oct 11, Nov 8, Dec 13

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: Dec 8. **2022:** Jan 12, Feb 9, Mar 9, Apr 13, May 11, Jun 8, Jul 13, Aug 10, Sep 14, Oct 12, Nov 9, Dec 14

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.

MARYLAND SHEEP & WOOL FESTIVAL: Online Winter Fest is here! Warm up for the Spring Festival with Winterfest! Two days of virtual spinning, knitting, felting, and crochet classes on January 29 and 30, 2022. Go to sheepandwool.org for details. Registration is now open!

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 (Shuttle, Spindle & Dyepot Magazine) will be holding its 2022 Convergence at the Knoxville Convention Center, Tennessee in the lovely Smoky

Mountains. You can sign up for a wide range of various in-person or online packages, from one day to single classes to multi-day packages. Check out their website for many options (weavespindye.org).

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 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! BOX 2086, Williamsburg, VA 23187-2086
Sorry, we have no PayPal, online or credit card.



CONGRATS to Tina on her award-winning hand-made art yarn! So much fun!

Kathy lovingly wove this triangle loom shawl for a friend undergoing cancer treatments.





Wonder Woman Goodie wove amazing little bags with embroidery threads! Credits go to her circle weaving on the front page.

Catherine stuns us with her gorgeous felted bag! Such nice embellishments!



