



Williamsburg Spinners & Weavers Guild

P.O. Box 2086
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<http://williamsburgspinweave.org>

September 2021 Newsletter
Next Meeting Monday
October 18, 2021
Social Time 9:50-10:00
ZOOM Meeting 10:00-12:00



Wouldn't it be nice to show all our creative spaces!?

WILLIAMSBURG SPINNERS & WEAVERS GUILD SEPTEMBER 20, 2021 MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Meeting held 9/20/21, 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: Dave, Cindy, Linda, Sandi, Kathy, Judy, Lisa, Goodie, Janet, Linda C, Debbie, Marsha, Jaime, Claudia, Dee, Janie, Catherine, Sharon, Ingrid

Welcome to New Member Sharon! Great to meet you at the meeting!

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

MINUTES: Accepted.

TREASURERS REPORT: We have \$4,160.57 in the treasury!

PROGRAMS AND WORKSHOPS:

Tina will demo Indigo dying in **October**, on Zoom. There was some discussion about having the next guild meeting, October 18, in Heathsville.

We've decided it would be

very difficult to transport an indigo dye pot in Tina's car (or anyone's car for that matter) so we will NOT be in Heathsville this month.

We will do the program over ZOOM from Tina's backyard.

The logistics of (not) transporting a dye pot become much easier that way! However, if you want to dye something, Tina is happy for people to come and dye in her backyard. Please let her know if you are coming to her house, and if you are bringing something for the dye pot. Please pre-wash anything that will be going in the dye pot, and bring a lawn chair. She hopes to see a few of you! (Not much parking, please let Tina know if you will be coming!)

The **November** guild meeting- Goodie's 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. First time trying this with some folks there, and some folks zooming.

We'll see how it works!!

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!)

Cindy & Goodie will be putting in an order for needles around October 15 – let Cindy know if you need some. 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! 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 the start of 2022.

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!

Workshops

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, basket weaving ... there are so many possibilities!

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

Surprise! MAFA made a bunch of money 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. The short Zoom classes were a great option (vs. the 2- or 3-day classes of yore), so maybe they will combine the offerings. Our attending members really enjoyed their Zoom classes and other events at MAFA 2021!

Also, as a reminder, since our Guild is a MAFA member, you have access to the oodles of patterns and information that is available for FREE on the MAFA website (mafafiber.org). Check them out on Facebook, too. Lots of fun info out there.

HGA

Handweavers Guild of America (Shuttle, Spindle & Dyepot 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: October will be via Zoom from Tina's house. We 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.

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 October (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!!!)

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:

HANDWEAVING.NET:

We discussed the availability of weaving information from Kris Bruland. He wrote a computer system with thousands of modern and historical weaving drafts. You can sort by loom shaft number to pick information for your needs. You subscribe for \$25-30 (Handweaving.net), to have access to patterns, downloads, etc. You can peruse the site without joining, but need to subscribe to download anything. This site has become so respected, museums have started sending copies of their weaving information (info that is not copyrighted) (old books, magazines, historical records, ...). This is worth checking out! This is a single weaver/coder doing all this research and sharing, not a large organization, so the small subscription price is well worth supporting this person to continue his efforts to save and share these resources.

Demos: We haven't heard from any of the **Fall Festivals** where we normally demonstrate. Facebook posts dated 10/8/21 says the High Fiber Festival at Hickory Neck Episcopal Church, scheduled for 11/6/2021, has been cancelled. 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!

Cindy went first, showing beautiful blue and white overshot, done on her new (to her) 8 shaft loom. (She sold her Baby Wolf.) The pattern is Echo, done from a class with Janet Dawson. What fun!

Debbie

has been doing lots of potholders. Hard to be productive when the roof/ceiling in her loom room fell down!! Yikes!

Sandi

has been doing towels with scrap yarns – tying the yarns together, then weaving. Fun look! Also, showed a great Card Woven Belt (woven diamonds), and a fascinating Rug, with the card-woven edging made from the warp of the rug!?! The warp fringe of the rug turns into the weft of the card weaving, creating very firm ends on the rug. No sewing, I think it is done sort of like the “hero cowls” where the front of the scarf is cut off, then turned around and that front fringe woven into the end of the scarf that is still on the loom. So cool, inspires so many ideas!

Judy

showed some of her card weavings, too. Lovely orange/yellow Backstrap strap, mixed blues bag handles, and a lovely strap she wove with her card loom using pick-up weaving. The card loom was cool, very sturdy, with strong metal pawls, made specifically for card/tablet weaving, by John Mullarkey. He is the Guru of Tablet weaving, go online and check out his books, DVDs, and Zoom classes. He is a very engaging teacher and personality. Ooh, maybe a workshop idea?

Goodie

made several 3-D felted needle pumpkins for an upcoming class she is teaching at the Gallery at Matthews on Oct 22. She was making little kits for the class, lots of prep! Such cute pumpkins!!! She also showed us some MAFA Conference entries: Escape Nature, Reading Woman on Grass, and a needle felted cat. Stunning.

Marsha

showed several Card Loom Weavings: a clothespin bag, a purse, and 3 Celtic Bands, done with inkle loom pickup – crazy hard! Also, a beautiful Color and Weave Gamp, but with the plain weave changed to Twill, the difference is amazing! And in her spare time, a knitted washcloth made on the diagonal with Sugar and Cream Scrubbing Yarn. I'm sure that will be great to use.

Catherine B

did Card Weaving for and at her Viking Reenactments. She used wooden cards, cool! But one became a big orange warp mess (it can be hard to put down and pick up again, especially

between reenactments). She also showed a lovely wet felted blue/purple vessel, with added embroidery and embroidered beads, and extra needle felting, especially around the neck to add firmness. She also showed some pretty Kumihimo cords she had made, with greens, and four strands of gold, and a round purple braid. Maybe a program in the future? That would be so fun, and I've seen Kumihimo made just using old CDs. (I've got plenty old computer CDs! Just saying...)

Janie

made such a cute knitted Sloth Hat with ties that had large sloth claws, from her handspun yarn, for her granddaughter in Germany. So fun! Looking forward to seeing more of her creations!

Jaime

showed lovely woven Log Cabin Double Weave Bathroom towels! Wow! Log. Cabin. Double. Weave. Wow. She used 8/2 yarn, 540 warps. Great job, Jaime, very inspiring!

PROGRAM: INTRODUCTION TO CARD WEAVING

LINDA COPPINGER

Card Weaving, sometimes called Tablet weaving, is an ancient technique of weaving sturdy, warp-faced straps and tapes with minimal tools. A warped set of cards was found in a Viking woman's grave in Denmark, showing an open hole pattern being made (one hole was vacant in the card).

Card Weaving techniques may date to more than a thousand or more years ago. Evidence exists that Nordic Vikings and ancient Egyptians used them. Vikings used them as backstrap looms, tied Waist to Toe! It can be done on a Card Weaving loom, or done as backstrap weaving is done, with the warp tied to your waist and the other end to some sturdy object (or toe!), with flat, square cards (typically made of cardboard or wood) as the method to change the warp shed and patterns. Therefore, it can be a very economical method of making extremely sturdy straps. This was such a fun demonstration, with lots of useful information. And, as mentioned above, John Mullarkey, at Malarkycrafts.com (yes, spelled differently!), is a wealth of information. There is lots on YouTube, too. Check out "Elewys of Finchingefeld" for good videos. There are many cards available out there, for varying price points. Note that some card sets don't have markings on the holes, or only have four holes, instead of the usual five (one in the center), some have 3, 4, 5, 6 holes. Some have the "A B C D" markings on the card holes showing clockwise, some are counterclockwise, some are 1 2 3 4. That may affect your patterns, so make sure your cards match the patterns that you use.

When setting up the warp, you have to pay close attention to the pattern instructions. Different pattern providers often use different techniques, especially with the setup. It is probably wise to do several projects with only one book or author (like John Mullarkey, or Claudia Wonei, for example) and use those techniques exclusively, until you get some experience. Then you should be able to adjust to different markings on the cards, or different warping techniques, or different card-turning methods or turning terminology (which way is "turn forward"?). Try smaller decks of cards at the beginning.

Linda gave us several helpful tips, such as using sewing thread as your weft (the smaller the weft, the better the pattern. Use toothpicks for your first 4-5 picks to start, to even out your tension and width. Try 8/2 or 5/2 yarns or combinations for your first project. Since this method twists the yarns, experiment with S & Z yarns. You can match threading to twist, or alternate threading.

A Card Loom is useful if you don't want to tie yourself down! Some folks have used rigid heddle looms, but cards require tight tension, so make sure the warp is tied to sturdy beam sticks. Backstrap loom techniques work, but it is tricky to get the tension right, or consistent. Inkle looms work, but make sure, you have adjustable tension; the twist will eventually be too tight. She used Fishing Squibbles Swivels on her loom, 1 squibble per card, 4 swivels per key ring. The key ring allows the swivels to turn. Also, when releasing the tension (like when advancing the warp, or setting down for a while), put rubber bands on them, and/or a stick on the cards to make sure the cards don't jumble up! (Push stick through the center hole of the cards, to make sure they don't flip or turn.)

Such great ideas! I want to dig out my cards and give this a try again soon!

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

OCTOBER 18 Program: Indigo Dye Pot with Tina. Tina will work with her Magic Indigo Dye Pot, and see effects on different fibers and get tips & tricks. This will be on Zoom, unless you call Tina to visit her at her house to bring some things for her dye pot.

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.

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? ...?)

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: 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. 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!

“Local” Festivals to attend as participants are opening up, too. SAFF (Southeast Fiber Forum Festival) in North Carolina will be held Oct. 22, 23, & 24, (nominal attendance fee \$5-10) with classes starting Thursday.

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 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 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 for latest details and newest classes. Email

programs@cvfg.org for more information.

(Break for the Summer)

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 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!

October 2021 PROGRAM DETAILS

Date: October 18, 2021 Time: 10-noon

Location: Over Zoom from Tina's backyard

Program title: **indigo dye pot**

Presenter: Tina Parman

Description

: Our talented fiber artist Tina will show us how she sets up and uses an indigo dye pot. She'll share some safety info - such as wear a mask when working with chemicals. She'll also show us how to dye different fabrics and fibers. Plus, she'll talk about the indigo plant and some things about silk. Join us over zoom from Tina's backyard for a fascinating program.

Tina is willing for a few extra skeins of yarn to be dyed, but she'll need to know beforehand how many, her dye pot is small. If you want some things dyed, let her know right away - so she can order some more indigo and find a second dye pot. She is also willing for a few folks to be in her backyard with her while she shows us how to play with indigo. She has a friendly dog who'll be sharing the screen with her, but the chickens will be in their coop. If you'd care to join her, let her know so she can plan, and you may need to bring your own lawn chair. Please wear clothing that can get messy - indigo will dye almost anything! She also won't be masking in her backyard, unless she's working with the chemicals.

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, Needles for felting

Michaels 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.

Cookie cutter, *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. Fiber 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.

If you do want to purchase a needle from

her - let Cindy know by October 15 so we have a count of how many Goodie needs to order.

PHOTOS!

Jaime wove Meta Towels by Elizabeth Hill.



on her inkle looms!



Judy worked



Goodie has been busy teaching a class or two.



show many cloths! (Next page)

Sandy demonstrates how one warp can



Cindy operates

her new Mountain Loom with an overshot pattern.



Marsha dazzling us with her Inkle Band Celtic pick-up and twill Color and Weave.



Good news from Gloucester, Janet's Soft Stone Vessel was accepted to Arts on Main Juried Show for October.



Kathy awes us with her mathematical wonder shawl.

