

WILLIAMSBURG SPINNERS & WEAVERS GUILD
JANUARY 17, 2022 MONTHLY MEETING MINUTES

Meeting held 01/17/22, at 10:00 AM on ZOOM video call AND at James City County Recreation Center, with some members and guests from The Tavern! 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.

FEBRUARY: We will be meeting both in person at the James City County Rec Center, AND over ZOOM. **2022 NEW YEAR ZOOM Meeting ID: 844 9640 0274 Passcode: 318420 TIME: 9:50 AM TO 12:30 PM**

James City County Recreation Center TIME: 9:30 AM TO 12:30 PM
5301 Longhill Rd, Williamsburg, VA 23188, Phone: (757) 259-4200

Attendees: JCC Rec Center: Dave, Ginger, Kathy K., Ingrid, Guest: Bryan Kross (Welcome, Bryan!)
Zoom: Cindy, Kris, Jamie, Bill M., Dee, Claudia, Marsha, Debbie, Janet, Izabela, Liz
Tavern: Sandi, Judy, Kathy R, Becky R, MaryAnn M, Susan C, Jan L (Great to see you all!)
Many thanks to all who sent me Roster Sheets! Much Appreciated!

COMMITTEE REPORTS:

MINUTES: Accepted.

TREASURERS REPORT: We have \$4,080.92, but many of us haven't sent in our dues, yet!
Remember to bring or send your 2022 Annual Dues, still \$20. If you attend via Zoom or forgot to pay at the January 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: Cindy has been so busy planning Programs, in addition to all her Overshot research, compilation, and sharing (and making drafts for Overshot Newbies with weird little looms!). Here are some upcoming Programs (subject to change). If you have any tips or experience with any of these topics, please let Cindy know if you can contribute or add to the Program.

February: This meeting will be mostly via Zoom, because we are **Zooming with Daryl Lancaster for a paid workshop on Color & Inspiration!** This is a great workshop for all crafters! So excited! We'll have our regular meeting, then take a break at 10:45, then the class will be from 11-12:30. Don't Miss This!!! I believe we are inviting our Tavern friends, too!

***Daryl Lancaster's Color & Inspiration:** Build color confidence no matter what your favorite fiber technique. We start with the basics of color and discuss inspiration from color forecasts, and online color tools. They can help stretch the imagination of anyone who is color challenged. PowerPoint slides will illustrate a series of fun exercises to create easy color references using yarn, photos, and Color-aid papers. Lots of inspiration!*

March: This will be a Spin-In + Video on Flax + Rigid Heddle review. It will be so fun to see everyone's spinning, and fondle fiber. Non-spinners might be interested in a quick review of using a Rigid Heddle in a corner of the room.

April: Best of Members Ideas! We want input from everyone: Share your favorite Hacks, Techniques, Tools, Tips, and Tricks for any of your favorite Creative Arts. We do this every now and then, and it is amazing how much even the experienced crafters learn from each other!

May: Doubleweave with Sandi. Learn about the magic of Doubleweave, a way to weave double layers, or pockets, or bags, or patterns, or denser cloth, all with your regular loom (even Rigid Heddle, with a few extra tips, maybe another program). (This technique would be useful for September's Program, for making holders for Spindles, Shuttles, Needles, Hooks or Reeds. Just Sayin'!)

June: Overshot Study: Share and Review, and Work Session for non-weavers: Bring your latest project (Spinning, Knitting, Needle Felting, etc.). We love to watch you working on your latest art!

July: Convergence! This hardly ever happens: Convergence is on the same date as our meeting. Many of us attend Convergence, so we will not hold our July Meeting. (Details are below, if you are interested. Lots of great presentations and classes! (weavespindye.org).)

August: Dishcloths! Knitting, Review warping for Dishcloths on the Rigid Heddle, Crocheting, whatever. And why they are better than Sponges!

September: Pockets! Wall pockets, Loom Pockets, Spinning Wheel Pockets, Project Pockets, etc. How do you organize your most-used tools to be near you as you work on your projects?

October: TBA

November: Name Drafting with Ingrid! Use a form of Overshot to weave your name on your weaving. Just in time for Christmas presents!

December: Share our Challenge Project, and hold our Holiday Party!

If you have any ideas for other Programs, or want to share your knowledge about doing new or interesting projects or techniques, or would like to request a Zoom class with a cool instructor, please share with Cindy.

OLD BUSINESS: NEW BUSINESS:

MEETINGS: We have reserved the James City County Recreation Center (Home!) for the next few months. We will also plan to continue to use Zoom during all these meetings for those who cannot attend in person.

Everyone should think about what we will do as a Challenge Project this year. Maybe we will discuss this at the next meeting.

SHOW AND TELL

Jaime showed some lovely handwoven and handsewn slippers she made from scraps of fabric left over from handwoven hand towels, using the pattern:
<https://www.threadsewingschool.com/blog/2018/2/20/slippers-free-pattern-and-tutorial> Actually comfy enough to wear!

She also showed a lovely "Rice Pouch" drawstring bag she made from handwoven scraps, too. The pattern is by KZ Stevens. Here is a link- <https://www.kzstevens.com/shop-1/modern-japanese-rice-pouch>

Kris showed a treasured inherited heirloom, handspun wool and handwoven by her husband's Great Great Grandmother. It is a marvelous linsey-woolsey Overshot coverlet (linen base, handspun wool for the pattern, sewn up the middle to make it larger). What a gem!

Dee made a very creative multicolor tapestry-like bag, made on a cardboard box loom; yellow serpentine waves woven first, then filled in with other colors to make a useful modern art piece. She also wove a pretty Leno Lace Shawl on her rigid heddle loom. So creative!

Marsha finally tied on her Fibonacci warp onto her loom. Felt so good to get inspired again! I'm sure it will be beautiful.

Kathy finished needlefelting letters for all of her grandson's names, making shadowbox frames for each grandchild. The backgrounds are from her son's old felted sweaters - So cute! She also knitted a beautiful sweater - just in time for all the cold, snowy weather we've been getting. Also wove a Blooming Leaf Overshot coverlet!

Liz showed one of the miniature wool baskets she made as presents for each of the Colonial Williamsburg Weavers, simulating the wool basket that they use in the shop, with tiny locks of wool, wool cards (made with Velcro - they work!), drop spindle, and "skeins" of wool & linen yarn. Each basket is only 2 inches wide.

Janet made a lovely plaidish bolero jacket, but she needs ideas for the joined V area at the back of the neck? Suggestions included an inkle band to make a neck edging, or a triangle of ultra suede as a patch, or single crochet around the edge, maybe with several strands, and then it looks like a kumihimo braid? Nice suggestions, everyone!

Sandi showed us a wide assortment of Sandi's Overshot items on display at the Tavern - two (3?) tables worth! There were so many towels, pillows, coverlets, placemats, bags, books on Overshot, Vintage items, a backpack, and even a skirt and a dress! Some were heritage items, like from John Jansen with amazingly fine threads. Some were made by other Tavern members. So many beautiful items demonstrating so much talent, and so many options and uses for our Overshot items. She even modeled a lovely vest of her own making. The vest had been meant to be seat covers, but it looks so much better as a flattering vest!

Judy was so productive, as usual, weaving a striped and patterned colorful tencel scarf, and several towels in many neat intense colors, but the coup de grace was an incredible sweater. It was the Spin-Off Magazine's 25th Anniversary Challenge pattern, with a lovely spindle pattern knitted in, all done with her own handspun and hand dyed (natural dyes) yarns.

Debbie showed a well-loved footstool that she made, that has withstood the test of time (and many, many cats!), and looks just great! It doesn't have very long floats, but has held up pretty well. She has many other Overshot treasures hidden away; maybe we'll get to see them in June during our Overshot Reveal Meeting!

Marsha showed a red & white Overshot sample. She had fiddled around with different treadling variations, using 8/2 Tencel for the warp, and 8/2 Tencel doubled for the pattern! Great Idea - It worked wonderfully!

Bill M. showed some excellent Overshot items that he has been working on. His first attempt was a white on white runner and it turned out crooked, so that taught him (and us, thanks Bill!) to make sure to get your warp & weft to be even tension and consistent beating. He then did a sampler with a

large pattern, using different setts and colors for each repeat of the pattern, showing the neat effects of changing colors in the overshot patterns. He also made towels with 10/2 cotton warp & weft, & 10/2 for the color weft, and they turned out great! He did a piece with “Tables” patterns that was very pretty, and he used Margaurite Davidson’s Blooming Leaf of Mexico for a gorgeous Runner, and amazing Blooming Leaf pillows, mostly with 10/2 and 5/2 cotton. What a selection of techniques! Bill, you do great work!

Many Thanks to everyone who brought their Overshot projects to the meeting. It was very inspirational for those of us in the Overshot study, and your tips and ideas were very helpful, especially those who have never tried this particular adventure, and are terrified. So glad to see all the beautiful things our folks have done.

PROGRAM: OVERSHOT OVERVIEW

21 of our weavers are participating in our Overshot Study Group on Josephine Estes Overshot Miniatures Patterns, based on the free downloadable patterns available at Weavers Marketplace. They will be weaving samples of one pattern each (maybe with variations).

[Patterns and an entire page of cool things are at:

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

We’ll distribute our samples to each other and discuss at the June Meeting. Others can feel free to bring any Overshot items to the June meeting to show other variations and patterns. Cindy has been doing an amazing amount of work: taking classes, doing research, sampling on her looms, and sharing summaries, information and drafts with all of us via email.

Today, she gave us a little background on how she and some others started on this Overshot Exploration. (It’s Rosemary’s fault!! Rosemary bought a book with patterns and inserted samples, showed it to Cindy, and Boom, they were locked and loaded for our Grand Adventure to make our own books.) So, for us newbies, there are a few things to know about Overshot:

- It can be a little overwhelming to start off, and weave 21 samples, but Ingrid suggested that if we just load one long warp, we can weave all the samples at once, and cut them all up at the end. Cindy thought if your pattern is small enough, we can weave two (3? 4?) samples side by side, and weave a warp stripe in between, and then cut them up.
- Once it is set up and you start weaving, it all becomes clear! Just do one step at a time, have faith, and call one of us if you get stuck!
- Overshot is the technique of weaving a plain weave fabric with a fine warp & weft yarn (like a 10/2), but after each shuttle pass and beat of the fine yarn, you change your shed according to the pattern to weave & beat with your thicker, brightly colored pattern yarn (like a 5/2). Historical Overshot coverlets often used linen or cotton for the thin base yarns/fabric, and used wool for the brightly colored pattern yarn.
- The bright yarn needs to be at least twice as thick as the thin warp/weft tabby yarn.
- The thicker yarn pattern uses a series of repetitive floats to create lines, blocks and patterns. Also, since it is thicker, it pops over the thinner base fabric.
- You usually get the best results with white or pale color yarn as the thin warp/weft yarns for the base plain weave, and bright, intense color for the thicker weft pattern yarn. But, you can get different looks with white warp, and two colors of thick and thin weft, but make sure they contrast enough to show off the pattern. Cindy showed a lovely

sample with thin pale blue weft, and thick bright blue weft, and white warp. Very pretty, but you might want to sample first.

- There are lots of stunning color options, but it may be best to try them after you have practiced a few times. And sample, sample, sample! Try putting extra warp on your loom to give yourself some sample space to make sure you like the color combos.
- The pattern will be a blend of background spaces, color Pattern, and half-tone blends.
- When threading the warp, you should notice that ALL Overshot patterns are threaded sequentially on EVEN, ODD, EVEN, ODD, ... for ALL warp threading. (AHA! moment for me: that helped me understand how the tabby AND pattern warps work together.)
- After warping, you could check your pattern without the tabby weft yarns, just to make sure it is all threaded correctly. (This looks pretty strange, and shows what happens if you forget to weave the tabby yarns!)
- If you have a 6+ treadle loom, it is a good idea to tie up to use the two left treadles for the tabby weft. Then use the other four for the colored weft pattern. Then use the left foot only for the tabby, and the right foot for the pattern. [Maybe if you are left-handed (left-footed?), you should switch?]
- Some people like to put the tabby treadles in the center since they get pressed the most, and that is the easiest location to get the most force. Some like to put the tabby treadles on the right under the strongest leg. You choose!
- You might label the treadles, 1,2,3,4,5,6 or ABCDEF, or 1,2 (Tabby) & ABCD (Pattern), you use what you want. Those labels will have to correspond to the card that you make with the treadling sequence shorthand notes. But keep in mind that many historical drafts use ABCD!
- If you have foot treadles, a cool suggestion is to put felt pads on certain treadles to help your feet identify by feel which treadles are which, like the bump on F & J on your keyboard. This is particularly useful to stop you from mixing up the tabby treadles with the pattern treadles.
- The Tie-ups will be different on different looms (Jack, counterbalance, etc.) The Josephine Estes Booklet is set up for Counterbalance loom. If you have a Jack loom, or other type of loom, use the tie up in Cindy's notes that she emailed us. Or just have the back of the pattern on top!
- Threading from Left to Right might have a different result from threading Right to Left.
- For the regular weaving, you will weave with two shuttles: the plain tabby weft shuttle, and the colorful pattern weft shuttle.
- Note that most drafts do NOT list the plain tabby weft throws in the draft. Most only show the pattern throws. They MIGHT have a note somewhere to "Weave tabby" or "Weave Plain." *** YOU need to remember that in between EACH pattern throw, you need to do the next tabby throw.
- Starting the tabby shuttle on the left might have a different effect than starting the tabby shuttle on the right! Experiment and test.
- To help you keep the shuttles and patterns straight while weaving, put the shuttle you just used on the fabric, under the shuttle that you will use (closer to your body). Then beat, and then pick up the top shuttle (closer to the loom) for the next pass. This habit is handy to help you remember where you are, if you are interrupted, and to make the weft yarns cross on the edges consistently.

- Many Overshot drafts have two or three pattern variations recorded with the draft. This means that you can use one warp threading setup, but you can change the way you treadle to make different patterns with that same warp setup.
- Some of us are going to make 2 or 3 variations of our pattern for each of our samples. This might be a good time to change pattern weft colors, to have a different color for each variation. This also might make it easier to keep track of where you are in your weaving.
- You might want to do ½ inch to an inch of just plain tabby in between each sample, to help you have a nice cutting section.
- It is a great idea to use floating selvages. The thin yarn plain weave won't have a problem, but the pattern wefts can miss the selvedge threads and leave unattractive selvedge floats – bleah! Or, you can design in a border that will not leave selvedge floats.
- As you are weaving, it might be easier to make a notecard listing the instructions, instead of trying to follow the draft graph. Check out Cindy's handouts for suggestions. Then you can lay or pin or tape the card in a convenient place to help you follow the pattern. List only the pattern instructions, something like:
 - Treadle #A 2x
 - Treadle # B 3x
 - Treadle # C 4x
 - Treadle # B 3x
 - Treadle #A 2x
 - And on and on. But REMEMBER, you will do a tabby pass between EVERY pattern pass.
 - You might put a sticky note on the card, to mark where you pause if you are interrupted.
- You might prefer to use graph paper to make an easy-to-read graph of your treadling sequence.
- If you have a table loom, or a dorset loom, or direct tie-up looms, (like Liz & Kris), email Cindy and she will make a lift plan for us!
- You might have different instructions for top and bottom borders! Make sure to not the different border treadling on your "Cheat Sheet" card, or maybe use the back of the card.
- Overshot drafts are notated differently, depending on the time (century or decade), person, and region. Some people are very good at deciphering old or unusual drafts. (Hi, Cindy, ol'buddy, ol'pal, ol'friend o'mine....!) Once you learn and practice the basics, you might find out that you have that special aptitude to learn how to do this.
- If you have a computer near your loom, you might find row trackers helpful, like with IWeaveIt programs or apps.
- Computer Weaving programs are very helpful in designing patterns, threading, drafts, tie-ups, etc.
- Once you practice a while, you might want to use a protractor to check to see if your wet finished fabric patterns are at the proper 45 degree angle, to make the circles round and the squares nice and square. Note that they will not be round or square under tension on the loom, because the warp will be under more tension than the weft. If this is important, you should weave a sample, cut it off, and wet finish it, then use the

protractor to check the angles. This might be especially important if you are sewing panels together, like to make a coverlet or bedspread, to make the patterns match in size. Use the protractor before and after, so you can figure out your target angle as you are weaving. Check Cindy's handouts for more tips on making consistent shapes.

- If you want to use an Overshot pattern for upholstery, but are afraid that the floats would not make a durable fabric, you can look into using the Overshot pattern, but in a complimentary plain weave (a type of doubleweave), to make the pattern with NO floats! Very Cool!
- Judging by the many samples we saw today, this type of weaving can be addictive! We can set up a 12-step program for anyone who needs help. (12 different patterns, from simple and small to large and complex, to reading old drafts, to making your own!) Whaa-hah-ha!

Cindy also described a short history of how and where Overshot was developed, and the important weavers in the last couple of centuries who have worked hard to preserve and translate some of these historic drafts and techniques. A Bibliography of several of these historians, their collections and other great helpful Overshot books is listed in one of the handouts that Cindy emailed to us just before the meeting. Maybe Dave can post them on our website?

Cindy's emailed handouts have so much information. Please read through them for more information, in a more organized way than these notes!

By the way, for those who only have rigid heddle looms, you can use a technique called CrazyShot to weave a similar fabric. Myra Wood has written two books on this technique.

Thanks so much to Cindy, for demonstrating online this cool technique, and sharing your tips and tricks. I definitely had several AH-HA! moments during your talk. We're also very grateful for the several handouts that you have sent out via email – so helpful and informative!!!

WSWG CALENDAR:

MONTHLY MEETINGS: Every Month on the third Monday, 10:00 AM to 12:30 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.

2022 NEW INFO: ZOOM Meeting ID: **844 9640 0274** Passcode: **318420** TIME: 9:50 AM TO 12:30 PM

James City County Recreation Center

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

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

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

February 21: Color and Inspiration. Daryl Lancaster will be teaching a paid Zoom class on **Color & Inspiration!** This meeting will be mostly via Zoom. So excited! We'll have our regular meeting, and take a break at 10:45, then the class will be from 11-12:30. Don't Miss This!!!

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October: TBA

November: Name Drafting with Ingrid! Use a form of Overshot to write your name on your weaving

December: Share our Challenge Project, and hold our Holiday Party!

EVENING SIP AND CHATS: Every Month on the last Wednesday, 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM

2022 NEW INFO: ZOOM Meeting ID: **835 4617 9735** Passcode: **984086**

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

2022 NEW INFO ZOOM Meeting ID: **832 4236 3608**, Passcode: **940409**

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, **2022 INFO SUBJECT TO CHANGE!**

Look for emails from Dee S (fuz####@cox.net) for updates or direct link. (I only listed part of the email address to foil any evil email grabbers.)

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:

CAROLINA FIBER FEST: Scheduled for March 2022, check out carolinafiberfest.org for updates and 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 their new program, Textiles & Tea.

Google "HGA Textiles & Tea" or go to <https://weavespindye.org/textiles-and-tea/> to browse & register.

HGA 2022 Convergence, July 15-21: 2022 Convergence at the Knoxville Convention Center, Tennessee in the lovely Smoky Mountains. (weavespindye.org).

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 \$20 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!