



GREATER VANCOUVER

*Weavers & Spinners Guild*  
since 1935

## **President's Annual Report For the Fiscal Year 2014-15**

### **ANWG (Association of Northwest Weavers' Guilds)**

[The Association of Northwest Weavers' Guilds](#) (click link) supports weavers in the Northwest, and GVWSG is an active member. (Name removed) acts as Recording Secretary for ANWG, and (name removed) acts as the GVWSG liaison. Both attended the ANWG Board Meeting in Portland (June 2014) and (name removed) accepted the additional role of Nominating Committee Chairperson. Our membership dues to ANWG are US\$1 per member, paid each September.

### **Archives / Historian**

The Guild has a long history, dating from 1935. Newsletters and other documents are held by the Historian, and transferred to the [City of Vancouver archives](#) (click link) for preservation. The Guild's 80 year history -- photographs, special papers, minutes, financial records, newsletters and annual reports -- are a valued record of the GVWSG (originally "BC Weavers' Guild", renamed "BC Weavers' and Spinners' Guild" in 1940 and changed again in 1974 to the current registered Society Name).

### **Demonstrations**

The opportunity to demonstrate spinning, weaving, carding etc. arise throughout the year, and serve as an important venue to educate the public, reinforce the importance of crafts, and build membership. Demonstrations are held at public fairs, community events, street festivals, and others. This year we demonstrated on a record number of days: 2 days each at the well-publicized events - Knit City (October), Fibres West (March), Roundhouse (June) and then at the Roedde House Museum, CityScape Community Art Centre and Southlands Farm, for a total of nine days! Thank you to all the volunteers who demonstrated spinning and weaving at our demonstrations.

### **Handbook**

This committee was formed in 2014 for the purpose of consolidating all the descriptions of various jobs and committees of the Guild into one document that would be easily accessible to all members. Committee members were (names removed). The first task was to gather all the existing job descriptions and it was also necessary to draft some new ones as they could not all be found. All guild members were invited to submit descriptions of their current jobs. We created an outline combining jobs with similar functions into the same sections and agreed upon a standardized style and format. The committee reviewed all the descriptions and made changes based on our guidelines. It was acknowledged that some functions will require a more detailed operational guide, but the purpose of this handbook was to provide an overview of responsibilities so that people considering taking on a job will have a basic understanding of expectations.

After preparing quite a few drafts, the handbook was circulated to all members for further feedback and editing. A final editing was undertaken and the final [Handbook: How We Function](#)

(click to link) was distributed in the spring of 2015. This is an electronic document which is posted on the website and can be easily edited and updated in the future. Great appreciation is extended to the committee members who diligently reviewed this document and all the guild members who contributed their ideas and knowledge.

### **Library**

This past April marked the end of an era when long term Library Committee Chair (name removed) retired. (Name removed)'s valuable contributions were marked by the presentation of a lifetime membership at the June meeting. (Name removed) has taken over as Chair.

Otherwise it was business as usual in the library. The library volunteers ensured that the library was open and provided service to Guild members during the monthly meetings. They are very much appreciated.

### **Membership**

We have 141 members, including six lifetime members, with our newest addition, (name removed), who has been recognized for her long term and dedication to the Guild as librarian.

I expect that the membership for the coming year may be a little lower as many of the "Textile Exiles", the last class of students in the Textile Arts Program at Capilano University, who were granted complimentary memberships, may decide not to renew.

### **Memorial Lecture**

In 2015, the Memorial Lecture was given by [Jane Stafford](#) (click link) who spoke on how her passion for weaving has driven her life. The lecture was held at Creekside Community Centre and approximately 70 people attended. Much positive feedback was given related to the lecture and the venue.

### **Mentoring**

The Mentor Program is there to match new weavers, spinners and dyers with more experienced ones. A Mentor is someone that can be called upon when a question or challenge arises in their common area of interest. The member doesn't have to be brand new at their craft to ask for a Mentor, but just may just feel a little less confident with what they are trying to create in their current project and need a bit of a helping hand. The Mentor is *not* a teacher, the person requesting a Mentor needs to have sound, basic knowledge of their chosen area of interest before being matched. Normally, we try to pair people up who live in the same area of the Lower Mainland, so that if needed, the two can meet to go over a particular challenge.

### **Newsletter**

All members benefits from the professionally produced newsletter, published five times a year. The newsletter includes articles, upcoming events, and advertisements from some of our local yarn stores and equipment vendors.

### **Programs**

September 18<sup>th</sup> – Evening meeting:

Speaker: Julie Holyoke

Title: "Jacquard: a Loom of Opportunity for Today's Weaver"

Description: In a one-hour presentation Holyoke will explain the opportunities that Jacquard or figured weaving offers us as weavers, illustrating her talk with images of textiles old and new. Holyoke will survey the technologies that allow us to create a variegated surface through woven structure and include suggestions on how we may use our own looms to weave

the techniques typical of her discipline: damask, brocade, lampas and velvet.

October 16<sup>th</sup> – Daytime meeting:

Speaker: Anita Jamieson

Title: “The Magic of Indigo and old techniques and things Japanese.”

Description: Scenes from the artists’ village (one of 100 most scenic villages in Japan), a summary of katazome, stencilling, weaving on a 100 year old Japanese loom, shibori and the working of a Japanese indigo vat will be discussed. Anita is a member of GVWSG and was a recent recipient of the GVWSG scholarship.

November 20<sup>th</sup> – Evening meeting:

Speaker: Summer Winter Study Group

Title: “Exploration of Summer Winter Weave”

Description: Last fall, a number of GVWSG member’s attended Mary Bentley’s excellent “Summer and Winter” workshop. Mary Bentley (a GVWSG member) is a Master Weaver and teacher and conducted this workshop at the Fibre Works Studio and Gallery on the Sunshine Coast. Upon returning to Vancouver, this group decided to meet on a regular basis to further explore this structure. We would like to share some of what we learned in, and since, Mary’s class.

December 18<sup>th</sup> – Daytime meeting:

Xmas potluck, gift exchange and social

January 15<sup>th</sup> – Evening meeting:

Speaker: Dianne Cross

Title: “My Journery as a Fabric Artist”

Description: Dianne is a certified Canadian Master Spinner and has been working with hand-spun/hand-dyed fibre for many years. She received her certification from Olds College in Alberta in 1990, where she went to learn about the preparation and spinning of fibre for achieving light and perspective in tapestry weaving. She has taught spinning classes all over the Pacific Northwest and has recently turned her West Coast eye to rug hooking. Dianne has had several pieces included in Judy Taylor’s books on hooking with yarn and recently an article published in Ashford’s *The Wheel*.

February 19<sup>th</sup> – Daytime meeting:

Speaker: Rebecca Pavit

Title: “Care and Keeping of Your Textiles”

Description: Rebecca will give an overview of the ways in which textiles can deteriorate and general preventive measures, followed by a few case studies and a question and answer period. Guild members are invited to bring textiles for which they have questions on preservation, storage and display.

March 19<sup>th</sup> – Evening meeting:

Speaker: Venessa Bentley

Title: “The Journey of Grade 1 Students through working with their hands”

Description: Arts integration is the foundation of Venessa’s Grade One Fine Arts classroom. It differs from teaching the arts, or just using the arts in the classroom. Rather, arts integration is an approach to teaching, that is embedded in one’s daily practice. The children gain a deeper understanding of their academic subjects when they are given opportunities to express their learning through the arts. Recently Venessa’s Firsties became involved in a community project by using their creativity to problem solve a serious social issue – that of

homelessness in Surrey.

April 16<sup>th</sup> – Daytime meeting:

Speaker: Kim McKenna

Title: “Living Colour – Colour Journey and Lessons Learned Along the Way”

Description: Colour is what drives me. What I am passionate about. It is why I weave, spin, knit and create. I will talk about where I started my colour journey and share with you some of the discoveries I have made along the way using protein fibre reactive dyes such as Lanaset and Ashford dyes, cellulose reactive dyes such as Procion and nature dyes.

May 21<sup>st</sup> – Evening meeting:

Year End Social Potluck – show and tell, door prizes

Donations for May 21<sup>st</sup> door prizes:

SweetGeorgia Yarns

Sanjo Silk

(names removed)

Susan Heming

June 18<sup>th</sup> – Daytime meeting:

Speaker: Kaija Rautiainen

Title: “Jacquard Works and Teaching Around the World”

Description: Kaija Rautiainen uses the very ancient medium of weaving combined with cutting edge technology in her images of West Coast nature. For 20 years, she used a traditional tapestry technique until the computer-aided loom allowed her to unite the image with varying weave structures. Her current work uses computerized Jacquard weaving techniques which she studied with Louise Lemieux Berube (The Montreal Centre for Contemporary Textiles) and Ruth Scheuing (Capilano University). She studies fibre arts in her native Finland and taught weaving there before moving to Brazil, where she formally studied painting. She moved to Canada in 1985 and established her studio practice at Vancouver’s Granville Island. She has taught weaving at Capilano University and has given numerous talks and workshops on tapestry and Jacquard weaving. She has exhibited her work internationally including American Tapestry Alliance biennales and Cheongju International Craft Biennale 2009.

### **Publicity**

The Publicity role remained vacant during the fiscal year 2014-15. Effective September 2015, (name removed) has volunteered to step into this volunteer opportunity.

### **Refreshments**

Thank you to the following members who brought goodies to share during our breaks for meetings from June 2014 – May 2015.

(names removed)

Bouquets to those who have filled the urn for our hot water for coffee and tea. Thanks to (names removed) who have made sure that we had milk or cream for our coffee/tea and kept the supply cupboard stocked.

### **Rentals**

The Equipment Committee share the responsibility of storing Equipment in their homes. This is a space challenge as people are sizing down in their houses. Equipment is used more in years when a Guild sponsored workshop is organized. It is wonderful to have equipment available for

new weavers and a good perk of membership to have good quality equipment available for members. The good nature of committee members husbands' and (name removed) husband have completed minor repairs this year.

The spinning equipment is all in good functional condition. The Lendrum spinning wheel has a new wooden footman which is working very well. Unfortunately nothing has rented in the past year. I'm not sure why this is so and am at a loss as to what to do about it.

### **Scholarships**

Scholarship had only one applicant requesting a Bursary this year. Funds of \$300.00 were provided to (name removed) to attend a Tapestry workshop with Joan Baxter with the Tapestry Artists of the islands. (Tapis)

### **Show & Tell**

Show and Tell is a very popular part of each meeting. We have created a form to record pertinent information to correctly get the information to the newsletter. The team types it copy ready for newsletter inclusion. A portion of the form is filled out for a chance to win a free membership at a draw in June.

### **Space**

The Space Committee was formalized this past year, as it's a long-term goal of the Guild to investigate and document all opportunities for better space. (Previously, finding better space was done on an *ad hoc* basis.)

This year, together or independently, the Committee members have:

- spent considerable time and legwork in "checking out" potential premises (or the rumour of potential premises!)
- consulted with the City of Vancouver
- contacted the Craft Council of BC
- connected with other guilds and arts groups
- And they keep a record of contacts, sites discussed and premises visited (very important!!)

\*\* If you hear of suitable space – to house the library, conduct meetings, hold workshops, with space for dyeing fibres, and an office, centrally located, preferably within the City of Vancouver, and accessible by transit – and cheap too, please – please contact one of the Space Committee members.

### **Standards**

Standards assisted in reviewing scholarship applications.

### **Treasurer**

At year end, May 31, 2015, the Guild had a total of \$94,825.29 on deposit with Vancity. As a matter of course, the financial records were reviewed by an independent bookkeeper and found to be in good order.

### **WeaversNews**

WeaversNews continues to be a popular e-bulletin, a quick reminder of events, items for sale and reminders.

### **Website Maintenance and Development**

Maintenance and development during the past year has been focused on keeping the website more up-to-date by adding posts on a more regular basis. Two new pages, "Spin About" and "On the Loom" have been added to address the special interests of each group and two members, (names removed) have joined the web worker team to keep the pages active. Time has been spent learning about WordPress to ensure a more diverse set of people learn these skills. GoDaddy is no longer our domain name host as they would not accept cheques. It was very difficult to terminate our contract. We still have an account with them although we no longer owe any money. The next step in completely leaving GoDaddy would be to cancel our account. We are currently with NamesPro for domain hosting which is based in Vancouver and accepts cheques. Temple Media is still our website host (web site hosting - every two years).

The following recommendations are consistent with previous years: More website workers are needed to ensure an active, attractive and interesting site. As well, a binder needs to be started to keep all relevant information regarding the website as several usernames and passwords are missing. This binder could also be used as a WordPress tutorial/information source.

### **Workshops**

Two events were held this year; a Spin-In in March and a Garment Construction Workshop in April.

The Spin-in was held at Mt. Pleasant Community Centre on a Saturday afternoon. It was a free event open to all Guild members. All levels of spinners attended and experienced spinners were very helpful in providing problem-solving approaches to others. It was a pleasant, social time allowing guild members to get to know each other better.

The *Garment Construction and Finishing* Workshop was presented by Daryl Lancaster, a well-known international weaver and instructor. Twelve people attended this three-day intensive workshop which included both presentations by Daryl and lots of sewing samples by the participants, focusing on working with handwoven fabric. In addition, everyone made a jacket pattern after personally fitting the various patterns Daryl designed. Everyone enjoyed trying on her wonderful garments. Participants learned much about both design and construction and left the workshop feeling inspired.

The first workshop scheduled for the Guild's new year is a Silk Spinning workshop presented by Kim McKenna, a local expert spinner and dyer. It will be held in September and registration is now full.

Respectfully submitted,

Susan Heming  
President  
September 2015