



Weavers Guild of Minnesota Annual Report

September 1, 2014 - August 31, 2015

Celebrating 75 Years in 2015



MRS. LIVINGSTON, MRS. BUSSEY AND HILMA
BERGLUND. 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF GUILD

WGM – Preserving and advancing the arts of weaving, spinning, and dyeing.

A Milestone Year

To the members: This past year, the Weavers Guild celebrated its 75th anniversary, and it was marked by several milestone events, growth, and change.

The Guild hosted the Midwest Weavers Conference in the summer of 2015, which was 31 years since the last time it was held in the Twin Cities. Dozens of volunteers dedicated hundreds of hours, and the conference was lauded as one of the best by the more than 400 participants, who traveled here from around the country.

The Guild's anniversary book, *A Thread Through Time*, featuring the Guild history and projects by 47 member artists, was published. It is a beautiful book, evidence of the hours dedicated by member volunteers. The pieces from the book were displayed at the book's launch party in a pop-up exhibit, and then at the Hennepin History Museum for a special exhibit, "A Loom Here, A Loom There: 75 Years of the Weavers Guild of Minnesota."



Growth occurred in many aspects of the Guild; the number of class registrations and class hours, contracted teaching artists, members under the age of 30, and grant funding all increased. Notably, this came during a time of major staff transition, as personnel and staff responsibilities changed to respond to the needs of the organization.

The ambition and dedication of our volunteers, members, Board of Directors, and staff continued throughout the year, and we recently put the final touches on a new and exciting five-year strategic plan.

Now that the Guild is entering its 76th year, we are pleased that the organization is on solid footing for a bright future.

Cynthia Scott, 2014-2015 Board President *Becky Franklin, Managing Director*

WGM 2020: Five Year Strategic Plan

The Board of the Weavers Guild of Minnesota, guided by a committee and member input, completed a flexible plan to guide the organization in meeting our mission: preserving and advancing the arts of weaving, spinning, and dyeing. Broad strategies were formulated in four core areas: education; space issues; individual engagement; and community engagement.

The plan is based on a vision statement, "WGM will have a national reputation as a vibrant arts organization in Minnesota and the region with innovative and high quality programming for weavers, spinners, and dyers of all skill levels," and four value statements.

- WGM celebrates and respects all individuals from beginners to seasoned artists and craftspersons.
- As a grassroots organization, we value the active participation of our volunteers, staff, and members.
- We value traditional fiber techniques and culture as well as innovative, art-based uses of fiber.
- We value a rich, positive environment that inspires lifelong learning in a non-competitive environment, nurturing a multi-generational and diverse community.

Weavers Guild of Minnesota
 3000 University Ave SE. Minneapolis, MN 55414
www.weaversguildmn.org

Finances FY2015

Financial Report Sept. 1, 2014 - Aug. 31, 2015	
REVENUE & SUPPORT	
Program Revenue	\$80,621
Grants	\$79,127
Individual Contributions	\$55,363
Fiber Fair (before artist payments)	\$49,337
Fiber Source Net	\$24,115
Membership Dues	\$20,759
Admin. & Miscellaneous	\$9,037
Total Income	\$318,399
EXPENSES	
Program	\$227,702
Management	\$45,247
Fundraising	\$19,678
Total Expenses	\$292,627
Net Assets	\$25,772

Balance Sheet August 31, 2015			
ASSETS		LIABILITIES & EQUITY	
Cash	\$205,449	Accounts Payable	\$2,683
Accounts Receivable	\$14,676	Deferred Revenue	\$13,295
Fixed Assets	\$47,262	Gift Certificates	\$2,265
Inventory	\$23,748	Temporarily Restricted Net Assets	\$13,120
		Unrestricted net assets	\$257,630
Total Assets	\$291,135	Total Liabilities & Equity	\$291,135

Board of Directors, 2014-2015

Cynthia Scott, *President*
 Peter Withoff, *President-Elect*
 Robbie LaFleur, *Secretary*
 Karen Hovermale, *Treasurer*
 Ellen Richard, *Past President*
 Robyn Husebye, *Education Chair*

Lisa-Anne Bauch, *Fundraising & Development Chair*
 Gayle Groebner
 Susan Larson-Fleming
 Jan Hayman
 Cassie Warholm-Wohlenhaus

Staff

Becky Franklin, Managing Director
 Jennifer Nicklay, Education & Outreach Coordinator
 Robbie LaFleur, Education & Outreach Coordinator (temporary)
 Aoife Roberts, Guild Assistant

Becky Franklin completed her first full year in her position as the Managing Director. In March the Guild welcomed Jennifer Nicklay as the Education & Outreach Coordinator. Aoife Roberts, Guild Assistant, began in the Spring of 2015, after the departure of Cindi Paulsen.

Grants and Corporate Support

GRANTS

Archie D. & Bertha Walker Foundation
 Elmer L. & Eleanor J. Andersen Foundation
 Harlan Boss Foundation For the Arts
 Smith Foundation
 Metropolitan Regional Arts Council -
 Management Consulting Fund
 Metropolitan Regional Arts Council - Capital
 Metropolitan Regional Arts Council - Arts
 Learning

Minnesota Historical Society
 Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support

CORPORATE GIFTS

Adobe
 General Mills
 Deluxe Corp Foundation
 Medtronic

Individual Contributions

The Weavers Guild gratefully acknowledges our many individual donors whose contributions totaled over \$55,000 during September 1, 2014 to August 31, 2015.

GENERAL FUND

These unrestricted contributions were made throughout the year.

Amy Andersen	Cathleen Hughes	Paula Pfaff
Susan Andrews	Robyn Husebye	Keith Pierce
Peggy Baldwin	Camille Johnson	Nancy Preckshot
Jack Boman	Wayne Johnson	Andy & Becka Rahn
Anita Branin	Robbie LaFleur	Gerl Retzlaff
Katherine Buenger	Connie LaTendresse	Kristine Samsel
Bonnie Buzza	Rosemary MacFarlane	Eleanor Skoog
Jane Connett	Kathy Mack	William Smale
Marcelle Edmund	Susan Mansfield	Sally Stinson
Susan Larson Fleming	Kelly Marshall	Jere Thompson
Nancy Fulton	Beth McLaughlin	Sarah Ullmer
Judy Goebel	Janet M Nelson	Barbara Ungs
Donna Gravesen	Margaret Olson	Martha Reed Willett
Gayle Groebner	Turid Ormseth	Mary Wussow
Susan Hensel	Cindy Owen	Anonymous
Karen Hovermale	Judy Payne	

SUSTAINING MEMBERS

These members made monthly contributions above the cost of annual dues.

Oluwatoyin Akisanya	Mary Holmgren	Kathleen Quinn
Sunday Anderjohn	Karla Jennings	Mary Rasmussen
Kathy Anderson	Janet Johnson	Teresa Razidlo
Lisa-Anne Bauch	Audrey Johnson	Ellen Richard
Paula Beck	Nancy Jones	Betty Rosenstein
Anna Blomster	William Jones	Cynthia Scott
Katherine Buenger	Robbie LaFleur	Marjorie Ford Sethna
Sue Bye	Judy Larson	Dawn Severson
Anne Clafin	Connie LaTendresse	Madeline Shinbach
Jane Connett	Charles Lininger	Sandra Skilling
Marian Dahlberg	Ruth Ann Litterick	Mary Skoy
Barbara Daiker	Patricia Lovegreen	Lori Smith
Nancy Fulton	Hazel Lutz	Lotus Stack
Judy Goebel	Sue Mansfield	Dianne Stiff
Nedra Granquist	Mia McDavid	Helen Stoerzinger
Gayle Groebner	Beth McLaughlin	Nathan Syverson
Elizabeth Harrington	Nancy Menzel	Rebecca Taibl
Beth Heikkila	Elizabeth Mercer	Edith Thorstenson
Debbie Heilig	Mary Ann Moenck	Caprice VanderKolk
Devin Helman	Shelley Chase Olsen	Karen Weiberg
Susan Hensel	Keith Pierce	Roberta Zeug Shell

BOOK CAMPAIGN

Donors contributed above the cost of the Guild's anniversary book, *A Thread Through Time*, in order to receive a copy and to help cover the publishing costs.

Carla Adams	Nancy Jones	Hans Neisz
Carolyn Azine	Kathleen Jordan	Mark Nelson
Lisa - Anne Bauch	Nancy Kearnan	AJ Niehaus
Katherine Buenger	Anne Keogh	Judith Preckshot
Paula Caughey	Robbie LaFleur	Geri Retzlaff
Kristina Clark	Chris Larson	Ann Haushild Ross
Pamela J. Davis	Karen Larson	Lynne Schneider
Kala Exworthy	Connie LaTendresse	Solveig Sem
Ann Fox	Jackie Lind	Mary Skoy
Nancy Fulton	Anne Lindgren	Terry Slagel
Kathryn Grafsgaard	Kathy Mack	Diane Syverson
Nedra Granquist	Linda Madden	Sharon Tessman Hoiland
Gayle Groebner	Susan Mansfield	Jere Thompson
Leslie Hahn	Kelly Marshall	Lisa Thornquist
Doris Hart	Wynne Mattila	Phyllis Waggoner
Beth Heikkila	Vierlyn Maxvill	Karen Weiberg
Elise Howell	Cathie Mayr	Beth Wilson
Patsy Huberty	Arlene Monk	Roberta Zeug Zell
Cynthia Johnson	Janice Mostrom	

LILA NELSON MEMORIAL FUND

Mary Baker	Robbie LaFleur	Margaret Miller
Jane Connett	Dianne Legg	Ellen Richard
Jan Hayman	Marie Markley	Robert & Patricia Wikel
Peggy Korsmo Kennon	Janet Meany	

DONATED ITEMS

The Guild benefits greatly from donations of items related to weaving and spinning. Using criteria (posted on the Guild's website), volunteers assess the items for use in the Guild or price them to sell. The proceeds support the Guild's operations and programming. Equipment donations were especially strong in this fiscal year.

Donated Yarn \$7609

Donated books \$2782

Donated equipment \$20,806

Education

WGM has a national reputation for quality, accessible programming. Our classes and workshops, offered year-round, stimulate the interest and artistic development of new weavers, spinners, and dyers, as well as our established artists in these forms. During each of our three sessions, we offered over 30 classes, including: a variety of “Try It!,” one day classes, which guide students through introductory projects; our core curriculum of beginning courses, which focus on the fundamentals of weaving, spinning, and dyeing; and master classes and advanced workshops, which focus on learning specific techniques and deepening artistic expression.



**At right, Sami-inspired bracelets from one of the most popular “Try It!” courses, by instructor Katherine Buenger.*

Private lessons continue to be an important way for students to schedule learning experiences on their own schedules, or receive help for special projects. For example, one member worked with an instructor to weave yardage for a possible business venture.

In the last fiscal year, we had over 700 registrations in our classes—a 25% increase from the previous year. Of these registrations, there were 550 unique students—which means many people took more than one class with us! WGM offers an established curriculum for students who wish to progress from beginning to advanced level classes, so they can build upon their skills cumulatively. It is not uncommon that a student can arrive brand new to weaving or spinning, become immersed in the many learning opportunities at WGM, and become an exhibiting artist in a fairly short amount of time.

Our education programs go beyond the classroom. This year, we welcomed experts on Kente cloth weaving, tapestry, silk, and painted warps to share their knowledge at member meetings. Off-site, the Guild offered two gallery talks by member artists: Judy Larson spoke about her rug exhibit at the Hudson Hospital, and Susan Hensel spoke about her installation at the Concordia College Gallery in St. Paul, part of the *Truth Telling: Jerome Fiber Artists Project Grant Exhibition*.

WGM equipment is regularly used for individual and group projects. During the last fiscal year, the new 32-shaft, computerized Megado Dobby loom arrived, and it was used for many projects, including name tags for the Midwest Weavers Conference.



We said farewell to our Toika and six narrow Kessenich rug looms, but we had our first classes on our new looms—two Swedish Glimakra counter-march looms and three wider Kessenich jack looms. Finally, we continued to

reorganize the spinning equipment to be more accessible and user-friendly. With a much-needed office area reconfiguration, our space changed a lot this year—which prepared us for exciting education opportunities in the next fiscal year!

*Weavers Guild of Minnesota
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The Guild collaborated in three local exhibits. The Hennepin History Museum mounted a summer exhibit, “A Loom Here, A Loom There: 75 of the Weavers Guild of Minnesota.” Thirteen Guild members participated in a collaborative exhibit at the Mosaic on a Stick Gallery, “Fiber & Mosaic: A Color Challenge.” The gallery at the University of St. Thomas hosted an exhibit of the Weavers Guild Rag Rug Interest Group’s “Urban Graffiti” rugs, along with displays from other Guild interest groups. Also, rotating exhibits of the exceptional work done by members and teaching artists were mounted in the gallery space within the Weavers Guild.

FY15 TEACHING ARTISTS

Traudi Bestler
 Katherine Buenger
 Anne Burgeson
 Sue Bye
 Kala Exworthy
 Betty Glynn
 Carlson
 Judy Goebel
 Nedra Granquist
 Donna Hanson
 Doreen Hartzell
 Beth Homa-Style
 Carol Johnson



Jan Johnson
 Ann Masemore
 Wynne Mattila
 Jan Mostrom
 Kristin Nelson
 Chiaki O'Brien
 Judy Payne
 Keith Pierce
 Angela Robins
 Karen Searle
 Dianne Stiff
 Cassie Warholm Wohlenhaus

**Above, the work of teaching artist Wynne Mattila was featured at the American Swedish Institute.*

VISITING ARTIST WORKSHOPS



Workshops led by nationally and internationally recognized artists are an important part of the Guild’s efforts to promote mastery in skills and artistic expression.

Inspired by Tradition: Kente Cloth Weaving with Linda Weghorst
Handspun Landscape in Tapestry with Ruth Manning
Weaving Expression in Faces with Ruth Manning
Sumptuous Silk Clothing with Karen Selk
Painted Warps and Woven Patterns with Betty Vera

**At left, a tapestry by Jan Mostrom from the “Woven Expressions” workshop*

PROGRAM & COMMUNITY PARTNERS

FY15 was a strong year for collaboration; the number of partner education and outreach activities doubled compared to the previous fiscal year.

American Craft Council
 American Swedish Institute
 Concordia University PSEO Program
 Craftstravaganza
 Girl Scouts of America
 Hennepin County Government Center
 Hennepin History Museum
 Karen of Minnesota
 Mini Maker Faire
 Minneapolis Institute of Art
 Minnesota Digital Library
 Minnesota History Center
 Minnesota State Fair
 Mosaic on a Stick
 Northfield Arts Guild
 Pratt Community Education
 Shepherd's Harvest Sheep & Wool Festival
 Textile Center
 Sub-Saharan African Youth & Family Services of Minnesota
 Twin Cities Pride Festival
 University of St. Thomas
 Youth Summer Camps with Textile Center



**Above, Debbie Heilig and Jere Thompson demonstrate at the Minnesota State Fair*

Membership

Members join and renew all year round to take advantage of the many benefits of being a part of the Weavers Guild of Minnesota. In FY15, the Guild was made up of approximately 450 members, and new members account for 35% of the overall membership.

The Guild would be nothing without the support, energy, and volunteering of our members. With new programs to attract younger members, The Guild increased members under 30 from fewer than 5 to more than 50.

Throughout the year, guild members lead and participate in focus groups to discuss topics of specific interest: draw loom weaving; dobby weaving; rag rug weaving; band weaving; spinning; and Scandinavian textiles. Lectures at the newest interest group, the NOW group for New and occasional weavers, filled a classroom to capacity each month. This year, a retrospective of the work of the Scandinavian Weavers Study Group was featured in the Textile Center Library. The Rag Rug Study Group's Urban Graffiti project was the centerpiece of an exhibit at the University of St. Thomas.

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VOLUNTEERISM & OUTREACH

The Guild relies on volunteers to perform a variety of one-time and ongoing tasks. These volunteers log over 3000 hours throughout the year. They serve on the Board of Directors, price donated equipment and fiber for sale, process inventory for Fiber Source, manage the Guild archives, maintain equipment, coordinate exhibits, and demonstrate weaving and spinning.

Guild members served thousands of people through demonstrations and hands-on learning. Classes and lectures were held at the Weavers Guild for Girl Scouts and design students. Volunteers demonstrated at fairs and festivals, human service organizations like senior-care centers, and youth groups. On one summer day staff members even transported a loom via the Green Line light rail to demonstrate on Peavy Plaza in downtown Minneapolis. Guild volunteers demonstrated at the Minnesota State Fair, every day of the fair from 9am to 9pm, a tradition since 1952.



Weekly issues of the Guild's electronic newsletter, *The Draft*, kept members up-to-date on Guild activities. In particular, members responded enthusiastically to the "Volunteer" section, and it became increasingly important as a method to highlight specific Guild needs and help members become involved

EQUIPMENT



Our classrooms are fully equipped with three dozen floor looms, two computerized looms, two dozen spinning wheels, frame and inkle looms, and other fiber tools for students and members to use. The equipment is frequently rented for projects, an important member benefit. Amy Atzel wove rag rugs on three different occasions. She commented, "I really like coming to the Weavers Guild. I get to talk to people and they walk by and admire my work."

FACILITIES

The Weavers Guild of Minnesota has been the anchor tenant in the Textile Center since 2001. The Guild leases space with three permanent classrooms, a kitchenette, an office and store area.

FIBER SOURCE

The Guild's specialty store, Fiber Source, is one of the few resources in the region that carries supplies specifically for weaving and spinning. The inventory of yarn, books, and equipment support the activities of our students and members.

ANNUAL SALE: FIBER FAIR



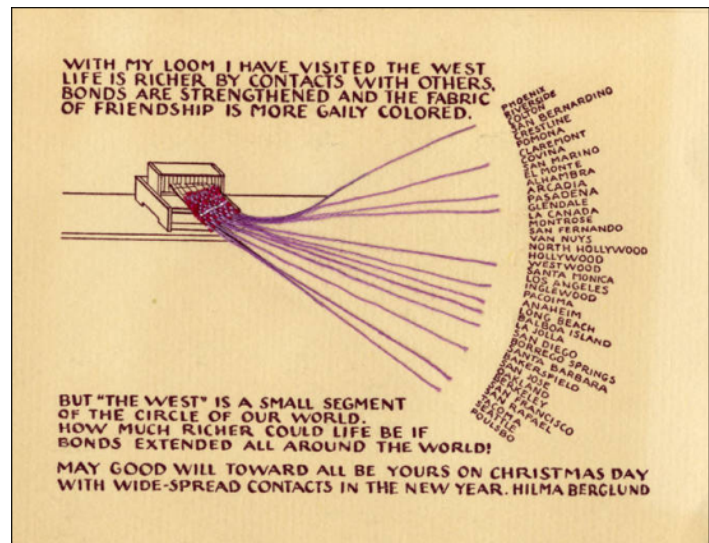
Each November the Guild hosts Fiber Fair, a sale of fiber art created by members. The sale provides members with an opportunity to showcase and sell quality work, as well as connect with dedicated patrons who return every year. The 40th Annual Sale, held at the Northrup King Building, was a success. **Nearly seventy fiber artists participated, and the sales totaled just under \$55,000 with \$38,000 paid to the artists.**

LIBRARY

The Weavers Guild of Minnesota Library includes an extensive swatch collection, periodicals, and rare and current fiber art books. A core reference collection in the Weavers Guild is maintained by the Library and Archive Committees. The remainder of the Guild's books (over 4,000 volumes) is housed in the Textile Center's combined library, part of the collection of 19,000 circulating and reference items.

ARCHIVES

The public can now view a digital collection of materials related to one of the Guild's founding members, Hilma Berglund, including correspondence and swatches from early classes and workshops. This project was completed by the Guild's Archive Committee for the Minnesota Digital Library's "Minnesota Reflections" project in 2014.

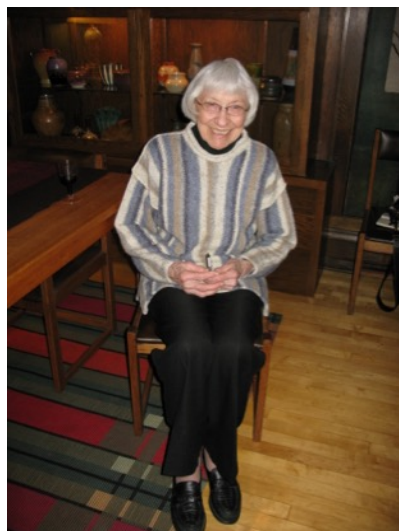


In Memoriam

LILA NELSON

Lila Nelson, a member of the Weavers Guild of Minnesota since 1962, influenced many with her passion and knowledge of Scandinavian textiles and tapestry. For nearly three decades, Lila was the Registrar and Curator of Textiles at the Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum in Decorah, Iowa. She frequently taught classes, and for a number of years, led the Guild's Scandinavian Weavers Study Group.

"Lila is a shining example to us all in so many of her life choices...I know I speak for all the current and past attendees of the Scandinavian Weavers Study Group when I rank her as the top inspirational member over all the years of the group."
— Robbie LaFleur, Scandinavian Weavers Interest Group



JOYCE HARTER



Joyce Harter (1924-2015) had several slogans during her lifetime, but the one that seemed best to capture her was "Weavers Dare to Share."

After careers as a seamstress and a high school art teacher, Joyce built a successful business in liturgical weaving, employing several weavers and producing pieces for hundreds of churches. Joyce also co-wrote three books on her favorite weaving technique, the Theo Moorman Technique.

Joyce was always interested in encouraging new weavers. She helped them solve basic problems from small to large and had many practical suggestions about design, materials, and marketing. She was always excited by new endeavors and new ideas.