Weavers Guild of Minnesota Annual Report
September 1, 2014 - August 31, 2015

Celebrating 75 Years in 2015

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.
## Financial Report
### Sept. 1, 2014 - Aug. 31, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>REVENUE &amp; SUPPORT</th>
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</thead>
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<tr>
<td>Program Revenue</td>
<td>$80,621</td>
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<tr>
<td>Grants</td>
<td>$79,127</td>
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<td>Individual Contributions</td>
<td>$55,363</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fiber Fair (before artist payments)</td>
<td>$49,337</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fiber Source Net</td>
<td>$24,115</td>
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<td>Membership Dues</td>
<td>$20,759</td>
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<tr>
<td>Admin. &amp; Miscellaneous</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Income</td>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>EXPENSES</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>$227,702</td>
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<tr>
<td>Management</td>
<td>$45,247</td>
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<tr>
<td>Fundraising</td>
<td>$19,678</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Expenses</td>
<td>$292,627</td>
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| Net Assets                                             | $25,772  |

### Balance Sheet
#### August 31, 2015

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>ASSETS</th>
<th></th>
<th>LIABILITIES &amp; EQUITY</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Cash</td>
<td>$205,449</td>
<td>Accounts Payable</td>
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<td>Accounts Receivable</td>
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<td>Deferred Revenue</td>
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<td>Fixed Assets</td>
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<td>Inventory</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>Unrestricted net assets</td>
<td>$257,630</td>
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<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
<td>$291,135</td>
<td>Total Liabilities &amp; Equity</td>
<td>$291,135</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
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
Debbie Heilig
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

Weavers Guild of Minnesota
3000 University Ave SE, Minneapolis, MN 55414
www.weaversguildmn.org
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  Geri Retzlaflf
Katherine Buenger  Connie LaTendresse  Kristine Samsel
Bonnie Buza  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 Ungo
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 Claflin  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 Storzbach
Gayle Groebner  Beth McLaughlin  Nathan Syverson
Elizabeth Harrington  Nancy Menzel  Rebecca Taibl
Beth Heikkila  Elizabeth Mercer  Edith Thorstenss
Debbie Heilig  Mary Ann Moenck  Caprice VanderKolk
Devin Helman  Shelley Chase Olsen  Karen Weiberg
Susan Hensel  Keith Pierce  Roberta zeug Shell

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

LILA NELSON MEMORIAL FUND

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

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 countermarch 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!*
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 difference 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.

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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.