The Weavers Guild of Minnesota
Preserving and advancing the arts of weaving, spinning, and dyeing since 1940.

Annual Report
Fiscal Year 2016

Introduction
Since its founding in 1940 by six women, including Hilma Berglund, the Weavers Guild of Minnesota ("WGM") has established itself as a nationally-recognized resource for the arts of weaving, spinning, and dyeing. The Guild offers classes and events year round, serving nearly 700 new and experienced fiber artists each year. It was the catalyst in the formation of the Textile Center, where the Guild currently maintains classroom, retail, and library space. WGM is a registered 501(c) arts non-profit organization.
Thank you for taking a class, buying yarn or a gently used loom. Thank you for stopping in to greet old and new friends.

Thank you for sticking with us in this year of transition. We have a new director, Beth Bowman who comes to us with vast experience in management of nonprofit arts organizations. We have a new education coordinator, Kristen Stoeckeler, who comes to us from Zenon Dance Company where she managed their robust education program. And we now invested in professional bookkeeping services contracted through the Textile Center. And we have Karin Knudsen who has worked very hard this past year to keep WGM operations running smoothly.

We express our deep gratitude to Jan Nelson, who stepped in as interim director. And to Kristin Nelson who rounded out the staff until new hires were in place.

Changes will keep coming. The Textile Center is planning for interior renovations which will address the heating and cooling systems, technology needs and an updated auditorium space. The Weavers Guild is a valued partner in planning for these advances.

Elsewhere in this report you can read about our classes and education programs. There are details about our finances. The state of our operations is good. Our programs are successful and growing. But there is more to do to assure that the Weavers Guild can sustain success.

We are grateful for the continued support and hard work of our volunteers who do so much to make the Guild successful. Consider serving on a committee, helping to plan an exhibit, demonstrating at the various fairs and festivals, big and small, that look to the Guild to foster the love of spinning and weaving.

Hope to see you soon.

Susan Larson Fleming
President, Weavers Guild of Minnesota
2016 was filled with many accomplishments, including:

- a 68% increase in funding support from the Minnesota State Arts Board
- WGM offered 151 specialized, small scale classes, taught by over 60 master instructors
- we continue to rate highly with our students, delivering over a 98% satisfaction rating
- WGM volunteers have logged over 3,000 hours of generous time and expertise

The Weavers Guild of Minnesota is excited to bring weaving, spinning and dyeing to new audiences across Minnesota and beyond.

Our membership remains strong at over 525 members, including 47 members in the “Under 30” membership program.

We've also continued our relationships with the Karen Organization of Minnesota's Karen Weaving Circle as well as the Sub-Saharan African Youth & Family Services Minnesota weaving group.
Our Vision

Following our strategic plan, WGM2020, 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:

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

WGM is strategically addressing the initiatives and priorities we committed to in our WGM2020 strategic plan.

- Skill level: WGM offered nearly 180 classes at a variety of levels, topics and approaches in FY16. WGM featured a variety of activities at a range of prices and skill levels, from beginning-level foundation courses in weaving and spinning to in-depth master classes with extended time for work on WGM’s studio looms.

- Engagement: We utilize digital communication tools to reach our members, students, instructors, volunteers and greater creative community. Interest group, volunteer and digital engagement levels were all up from previous years.

- Traditional and contemporary approaches: Students have the opportunity to try many techniques within the arts of weaving, spinning, and dyeing: floor loom weaving, frame loom weaving, spinning on a wheel or drop spindle, rag rug weaving, card weaving, inkle loom weaving, tapestry weaving, ply split braiding, Navajo weaving, Saori Japanese weaving, Sami-inspired weaving and braiding; Bengal dyeing, textile designing, and Kumihimo Japanese braiding.

- Inclusive: The programs are accessible to individuals at all skill levels, backgrounds, and abilities. Private lessons are available by request, so students who are not able to attend scheduled classes or need customized instruction can learn from our teaching artists.
Our Heritage

In 1940 Hilma Berglund, Ester Downs and Mrs. George Clocker, knowing the Walker Art Center was anxious to promote arts and crafts, contacted Leroy Turner the art centers education director. They asked for help sending out invitations to an organizational meeting for February 15th at the Walker. Sixteen people attended that meeting and decided to call themselves the Twin City Weavers’ Guild and voted to have Miss Berglund serve as temporary chair. A constitution was adopted at the next meeting on March 7th, the first official meeting of the Guild. Twenty Six members paid the 50 cent fee to become the charter members of the Twin City Weavers Guild. Today the Guild with a membership of over 500, is enjoying a resurgence of interest in the handicrafts and fiber art, and offers more than 125 classes each year in weaving, spinning and dyeing.

WCM Founders & Charter Members, 1940:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Linda Ames</th>
<th>Shirley Miller</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Eleanor Anderson</td>
<td>Elinor Milton</td>
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<td>Harriet Barnum</td>
<td>Grace Montgomery</td>
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<td>Hilma Berglund</td>
<td>Mrs. H.D. Meyers</td>
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<td>Agnes Bowen</td>
<td>Andrea Nelson</td>
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<td>Marion Bussey</td>
<td>Mrs. M.B. Ogle</td>
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<td>Martha Claussen</td>
<td>Felix Payant</td>
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<td>Mrs. Harvey Fuller</td>
<td>Mrs. Curtis H. Pomeroy</td>
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<td>Esther Downs</td>
<td>Emma Roberts</td>
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<td>Mrs. George Clocker</td>
<td>Helen Stafford</td>
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<td>Mrs. F.F. Grout</td>
<td>Florence Stanley</td>
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<td>Helen Larkin</td>
<td>Florence Willets</td>
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<td>Savetta Livingston</td>
<td>Mrs. Harry Zimmermann</td>
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Our Support & Financials

WCM is committed to governance that ensures we observe best practices in organizational operations, that we protect and appropriately administer charitable income and assets.

FY 2016 Grants and Corporate Support

GRANTS
Archie D. & Bertha Walker Foundation
Elmer L. & Eleanor J. Andersen Foundation
Metropolitan Regional Arts Council
Minnesota Historical Society
Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support

CORPORATE & MATCHING GIFTS
Adobe Systems Incorporated
General Mills, Inc.
Deluxe Corp Foundation
Medtronic
Midwest Weavers Association
Minnesota Museum of American Art
Minnetonka Center for the Arts
Prudential Insurance
Textile Center of Minnesota
Wilder Foundation
FY 2016 Individual Contributions
WGM is grateful to our many individual donors whose contributions totaled $80,569 during September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2016. This was a 46% increase from the previous fiscal year. A special thanks those individual givers who opt for monthly (sustaining) giving to support the WGM mission.

Adams, Carla
Andersen, Amy
Anderson, Christine
Anderson, Emily
Anderson, Kathy
Andrews, Susan
Azine, Carolyn
Baldwin, Peggy
Batson, Cheryl
Bauch, Lisa
Beck, Paula
Behr, Lila
Berg, Terry
Berlin, Nancy
Blodgett, Sue
Boman, Jack
Bot-Miller, Sandy
Bowman, Leslie
Bratt, Judy
Brusic, Lucy
Buenger, Katherine
Bulthuis, Robert
Burgeson, Anne
Buzza, Bonnie
Bye, Dennis
Campbell, Connie
Caughey, Paula
Clack, Rose
Clark, Kristina
Colberg, Dorothy
Collins, Cynthia
Connett, Jane
Czaia, Janet
Daiker, Barbara
Dailey, Elizabeth
Davis, Pamela
Delak, Carol
Deriaz, Kim
Drake, Denise
Dunse, Brenda
Dutcher, Lynn
Edmund, Marcella
Emerson, Sue
Exworthy, Kala
Fearn, Judy
Fitzgerald, Joyce
Fox, Ann
Fulton, Nancy
Garcia, Mia
Goebel, Judy
Graff, Cindy
Grafsgaard, Kathryn
Granquist, Nedra
Gravesen, Donna
Groebner, Gayle
Haglund, Joan R.
Hahn, Leslie
Hansen, Patty
Harrington, Elizabeth
Hart, Doris
Haugen, Karen
Hauschild, Ann
Hayman, Jan
Heath, Barbara
Heikkila, Beth
Heilig, Debbie
Hensel, Susan
Hines, Traci
Holland, Sharon
Holmes, Karen
Householder, Steven
Hovermale, Karen
Howell, Elise
Huberty, Patsy
Hughes, Cathleen
Iverson, Francie
Jacobson, Barbara
Jeffery, Molly
Johnson, Camille
Johnson, Cynthia
Johnson, Janet
Johnson, Wayne
Jones, Nancy
Jordan, Kathleen
Kaytonah, Hannah
Kearnan, Nancy
Kelley, Nancy
Keogh, Anne
Kiefer, Molly Sutton
Kieven, J
Kline, Eleanor
Kohn, Theresa
LaFleur, Robbie
Lake, Sarah
Larson-Fleming, Susan
Larson, Chris
Larson, Karen
Larson, Linda
LaTendresse, Connie
Leach, Chillon
Lee, Ann
Legg, Dianne
Lehman, Karen
Leister, Marilyn
Lind, Jackie
Lindgren, Anne
Linner, Andy
Litterick, Ruth
Lund, Lisa
Lurye, Bonnie
Lutz, Hazel
MacFarlane, Rosemary
Mack, Kathy
Madden, Linda
Majorus, Georgia
Mambi, Nancy
Mansfield, Susan
Marquardt, Sharon
Marshall, Kelly
Mattila, Wynne
Maxwell, Vierlyn
Mayr, Cathie
McClynn, Rita
McLaughlin, Beth
Meady, Janet
Miller, Alison
Miller, Cynthia
Miller, Margaret
Minola, Jean
Moenck, Mary Ann
Monk, Arlene
Moore, Marilyn
Mortenson, Mary
Mostrom, Janice
Murphy, Tara
Mykelbust, Andrea
Neisz, Denise
Neisz, Hans
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<tr>
<th>Name</th>
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<td>Pfaff, Paula</td>
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<td>Stensvaag, Nancy</td>
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<td>Newberg, Janet</td>
<td>Quinn, Kathleen</td>
<td>Stiff, Dianne</td>
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<td>Radman, Aimee</td>
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<td>Razidlo, Teresa</td>
<td>Stowe, Judy</td>
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<td>O'Brien, Chiaki</td>
<td>Renz, Lynne</td>
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<td>Olsen, Kevin</td>
<td>Retzlaff, Geri</td>
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<td>Ormseth, Turid Aavik</td>
<td>Samsel, Kristine</td>
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<td>Sanders, Nadine</td>
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<td>Owen, Cindy</td>
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<td>Pavlik, Anna</td>
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<td>Severson, Dawn</td>
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<td>Peterson, Lisa</td>
<td>Skoog, Eleanor</td>
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**FY 2016 In-Kind Donations**

The Guild benefits greatly from donations of items related to weaving and spinning. WGM volunteers assess the items for use in the Guild or price them to sell. The proceeds support the Guild's operations and programming.

- Donated yarn $11,060
- Donated books $1,685
- Donated equipment $16,441
FY2016 Income and Expenses

INCOME

- Membership Dues $24,160
- Grants $43,240
- Other Contributions $85,069
- Class Tuition/Fees $97,263
- Fiber Fair Annual Sale $43,538
- Interest $534
- Sales $20,966
- Other $10,836

TOTAL $325,406 (Prior Year: $318,399)

EXPENSES

- Program $239,070
- Management and General $37,666
- Fundraising $19,217

TOTAL $295,953 (Prior Year: $270,750)
Our Governance and Leadership

WGM is governed by a board of directors. Board of directors are responsible for the management of the business and affairs of the organization. WGM board of directors supervise and govern the charity’s efforts in carrying out its mission. Directors owe a fiduciary duty to the nonprofit to act in good faith, with care, loyalty, obedience, and honesty in fact, and in the best interests of the organization.

WGM takes this responsibility seriously and are governed by a committed board of directors in compliance with charity guidelines set forth by the State of Minnesota Attorney General’s Office.

WGM’s board of directors for FY 2016 (September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2016):

OFFICERS
- Peter Withoff, President
- Caprice Vanderkolk, President Elect
- Cynthia Scott, Past President
- Karen Hovermale, Treasurer
- Jan Hayman, Secretary

DIRECTORS
- Gayle Groebner
- Debbie Heilig
- Robyn Husebye
- Susan Larson-Fleming
- Robbie LaFleur

WGM staff (September 1, 2015 to August 31, 2016):
- Becky Franklin, Managing Director
- Karin Knudsen, Guild Coordinator (starting March 2016)
- Jennifer Nicklay, Education Coordinator
In Memoriam

WGM mourns the passing of two wonderful weavers, Sue Bye and Lila Nelson.

Sue (Susan) Bye
After retiring from their professions in the Seattle area, they chose to return to the Twin Cities area in great part because of WGM and Sue’s love of weaving and other textile arts. Since then Sue served WGM in a wide range of positions. As a board member she was the editor of the monthly newsletter, the Weaver. As a patient teacher, she shared her expertise in Kumihimo, Viking knit bracelets and weaving with wire. Many of us have new talents because she shared her knowledge. On the other end of the spectrum, she wove complex weave structures on her computer aided loom. As a grant writer, she brought WGM much needed financial support allowing us to expand programming and purchase needed equipment. For many years, she helped coordinate Federation. The weaving drafts in WGM’s 75th anniversary book were all proofed by her. Even if you never had the privilege to personally meet Sue, her faithful work affected you and every other member of WGM.

Lila Nelson
Lila Nelson was an adventurous Minnesota farm girl who left the land to attend college, join the U.S. Air Force and then forge a national reputation as a scholar and artist of traditional Norwegian textiles. She and her husband, Marion Nelson, now deceased, are credited with transforming a small Norwegian folk art museum in Decorah, Iowa, into a 12-building historical heritage center – the Vesterheim Norwegian-American Museum. Nelson was active at WGM for decades, taught classes and led tours to Norway, and created an impressive body of weaving. In 2001, Nelson was awarded the St. Olav medal by the Norwegian government in recognition of her contributions to Norwegian-American culture. When the museum became an independent nonprofit in 1965, Lila Nelson became the museum’s textile curator and Marion Nelson the museum’s director. Lila Nelson’s love of textiles also led her to WGM, where she was an active member and teacher for 60 years. She wove both traditional and contemporary themes. A memorial fund has been established in her name at WGM.
2017 Testimonials

"I like the potential for classes and workshops. I live in Iowa, a half-day’s drive away; I participate actively in my local guild, but I enjoy reading the Guild’s newsletter, taking a class from time to time, and seeking inspiration from others' work."

"Despite weaving for 40 years, I only joined last year, after I retired. As I start to downsize, I am appreciative of the many small loom and rigid heddle enthusiasts. I am going back to my own weaving roots. I have added spinning to my fiber enjoyment."

"I enjoy the services it offers and the generally cheerful atmosphere in the place. It's about excellence in weaving and spinning, while being very welcoming to newcomers."

"Having real people to talk to at the store to get supplies and ask questions. The monthly meetings with guest speakers. The people. Going to WGM and walking through the rooms to see what project is on each loom. WGM is a fun, inspirational place."

"Everyone that I have met at the guild is friendly and happy to advise/teach. This makes it much more comfortable for a beginner to get started and to ask all of the questions that inevitably pop up when learning a new skill."

"It's a cheery space to come to create, to learn new techniques or ideas, to have help solving problems, to buy yarn, and to see friends who also love fibers."

"I love that it has equipment I can use and rent. I adore that I can learn how to use all this equipment! I have grown so much as a person and an artist as a result of membership with the guild. I consider this like my public library - an amazing compilation of resources I could never own all at once."

Our Future

The arts of weaving, spinning, and dyeing are found in cultures all over the globe, beginning in ancient times and evolving through the interpretations of thousands of generations. Spinners produce unique and varied yarns from plant or animal fibers. Dyers color fibers, fabrics, and yarns. Weavers create garments, rugs, household textiles, and tapestries. WGM is proud to continue these traditions while showcasing its contemporary relevance.
Weavers Guild of Minnesota
Preserving and advancing the arts of weaving, spinning, and dyeing since 1940.

Located in the Textile Center
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