Weavers Guild of Minnesota

ANNUAL REPORT September 1, 2011-August 31, 2012

WGM - Preserving and advancing the arts of weaving, spinning and dyeing.
Letter from Our Presidents

Responding to an unusual challenge can demonstrate the strength of an organization. In 2012, our special challenge was to survive the light rail construction that would make finding parking and even our front door difficult. WGM was constantly trying new approaches to keep the office, classes and member activities accessible despite lane changes, detours, and closed side streets.

First, the Guild established representation on the city’s Construction Communications Committee. Then, information was distributed by a weekly email to members, keeping them current on the latest construction developments. Students received notices, and maps with key access routes and available parking spots were constantly updated on the Guild’s website. Comment cards and quick surveys helped our members, students, and visitors relay their suggestions for additional assistance. Several member meetings were held at a church in Dinkytown during the summer to avoid the construction all together. The Guild also took the risk of changing venues of its annual sale “Fiber Fair” from our home-base of the Textile Center to the Northrup King Building, a move appreciated by many patrons who did not want to traverse through the construction.

We heard from other non-profit organizations that their class registrations suffered dramatically during similar construction. Yet due to the hard and creative work of many members and staff, WGM was able to celebrate a very positive year and the end of construction at our December potluck.

We are proud that we could use our creativity to not only survive, but thrive!

Cathie Mayr, President 2012
Donna Gravesen, President 2013

Membership

Jere Thompson, Membership Chair

Membership efforts this past year focused on developing tangible outcomes from the strategic plan completed by the Board in 2011. Former members and relatively new members were surveyed about their ideas of the Guild, like their reasons for joining, what benefits they expected, and in what activities they enjoyed participating. From the survey responses, a discussion guide was prepared and used in small group discussions, during which participants were asked to react to possible solutions to member concerns. A list of short and long range recommendations summarizing this research was given to the Guild’s board of directors, and then I worked with several board members to develop plans for implementing some of the recommendations. Foremost was making study groups seem less intimidating to new members and finding ways to foster member interaction. In addition, all members were invited to an on-site orientation to explain Guild benefits and procedures.

When we learned more about the needs of our members, it was clear that the Guild had to update its technological infrastructure. A task group was formed, consisting of the Volunteer Coordinator, the Operations Manager, a consultant, and myself. We determined that association management software and supporting technology were needed in order to sustain current operations, execute the Guild’s strategic plan, and support evolving member and student activity. The Guild was awarded a capital grant from the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council to obtain new software and hardware. We look forward to benefiting from the technology when it is implemented in 2013.

Lastly, the Guild continues to evaluate the benefits of being a member. Besides being part of a community of friendly, creative individuals, we are happy to offer members a well-rounded list of benefits:

- **Continuing to learn new techniques** and project ideas from our talented instructors by taking part in classes and workshops at the discounted member rate.

- **Finding inspiration** by going through the Guild’s collection of swatches, checking out materials from the Textile Center Pat O’Connor Library, or purchasing new, donated, and consigned-by-members yarn in Fiber Source.

- **Connecting to others in our fiber community** by participating in fabulous groups, staying informed through the members-only weekly e-publication *The Draft*, sharing ideas on the WGM Yahoo chat group, and volunteering on a committee or demonstrating at an event.
LEARNING

Education Program

Linda Hansen, Education Director

The Education Program has recently piloted private lessons and partnerships with off-site organizations. These two new initiatives have stretched the Guild’s limits and extended its audience reach; both have now become an integral part of programming. The individuals and arts or social entities newly connected to WGM receive top-notch learning opportunities; a beginning student may find learning options to fit a busy schedule, and new audiences lacking ready access to fiber arts are able to participate in weaving classes through a local venue.

The response to education continues to engage and excite WGM’s professional teaching artists as they share their expertise and talents with people of all ages and skill levels. Approximately 90% of the courses held serve beginning or advanced beginning students. The novice or curious flock to the Try It classes, while enthusiasts pursue spinning and weaving skill building techniques on the spinning wheel and floor loom or on the increasingly popular rigid heddle frame loom. The Guild’s expanded educational offerings showcase a creative curriculum with classes such as Rep Weave & Color; Fine Threads on the Rigid Heddle; Log Cabin Variations: Recycled Denim, T-shirts & Neckties Rug; Art Yarn Spinning on Any Wheel; and Paint a Wool Roving. Other arts learning opportunities challenge and inspire students through courses such as Spinning for Knitters: Ply Split Braiding; pixeLoom®; Inkle Weaving Wire Jewelry; and Weaving Luxury Linen, the last of which used the 16-shaft Compu-Dobby AVL loom.

Indeed, there is something for everyone at WGM, since, in addition to its fiber arts learning activities for adults, the Guild also collaborates with the Textile Center Summer Camps. In these camps, young people ages 9 to 14 spend a week in classes such as Break the Rules and Thread by Thread, jumping from the spinning wheel to the inkle loom or from the drop spindle to the rigid heddle frame loom or the floor loom.

The fervor of activity at the Guild, as well as the dedication of the Education Committee and its Task Group volunteers, continue to create an Education Program that can best be summed up with students’ comments. “Fun and relaxing way to spend a weekend!” “Great class! Thanks.” “What a super teacher. It’s great fun to take her classes. And you always learn something new.” “WGM classes are always exceptional and a wonderful learning experience!”

CLASSES & WORKSHOPS
27 Teaching Artists for 91 Classes
9 Classroom & AVL Assistants in 13 Classes
37 Private Lesson Students for 205 Classroom Hours
7 Visiting Artists for 10 Workshops

STUDENTS
580 Students: 394 Member Students,
186 Non Member Students

OFF SITE LOCATIONS
American Swedish Institute
Bloomington Theatre & Art Center
Lyngblomsten 5 5 1 Club

Class & Workshop Details

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Visiting Artists & Programs

Lectures by nationally and internationally recognized fiber artists are open to the public and admission is free.

Ruby Leslie The 3D’s of 3-D: Deflection, Differential and Double Weave
Laura Viada Color Studies for Weavers
American Craft Council
Karen Searle Weaving a Real Peace
Judith MacKenzie Diameter Control
Patricia Ewer Introduction to Textile Conservation
Jane Patrick Creative Cloth: Not Just for the Rigid Heddle Loom
Deb Robson Rare Sheep and Their Wool: Treasurer We Can’t Afford to Lose

Workshops led by recognized visiting artists, covering a variety of weaving and spinning topics.

Ruby Leslie The 3D’s of 3-D: Deflection, Differential and Double Weave
Laura Viada Exploring Thick’n Thin
Judith MacKenzie Luxury Fibers and To Spin a Fine Thread
Patricia Ewer Textile Conservation
Deb Robson Rare Wools from Rare Sheep
Exhibits

Throughout the year, the Guild displays works created by current and past WGM Members. These works serve as inspiration for visitors, students and fellow members.

- **Weavers Guild of Minnesota at the State Fair** September to October 2011
- **Spin, Spin, Spin** woven pieces from hand spun yarn November to December 2011
- **Double Bind Weave Rugs** Rag Rug Study Group project January to March 2012
- **Second Time Around** Woven, braided, or spun articles created from recycled materials or stash yarn. March to May 2012
- **Paula Pfaff: Spun Gold Award** May to June 2012
- **Trying Something Different: Unusual Fibers for Weaving** June to August 2012

**Fiber Source**

WGM's specialty store, Fiber Source, is one of the few resources in the region that carries supplies specifically for weaving and spinning.

Fiber Source offers a complete supply of yarns for weaving; books on weaving, spinning, dyeing; and equipment for weavers and spinners. Customers, who are general visitors, students, and WGM members, can take advantage of knowledgeable support in selecting supplies for their craft.

WGM benefits from generous donations of used weaving and spinning equipment, as well as weaving yarn. WGM volunteers price and sell these items to the public, and the proceeds go directly to supporting the Guild’s operations.

Library

The Weavers Guild of Minnesota Library includes an extensive swatch collection, periodicals, and rare and current fiber art books. The collections are generally maintained by the Guild’s Library Committee and Archive Committee. The remainder of the Guild’s books is maintained as part of the Textile Center’s combined library.

The Guild makes a financial contribution to the Textile Center to assist in the maintenance of the library and the support of the professional librarian, Nancy Mambi, who is responsible for the stewardship of this unique collection.

Besides the over two hundred books in the WGM Reference Library, used by members and students in class, 4,000 of WGM’s books and magazines are a part of the Textile Center Library.

Every year the Guild acquires several new books to add to the Textile Center Library’s collection of 19,000 circulating and reference items.

Annual Sale

Each November the Weavers Guild of Minnesota hosts Fiber Fair, an annual sale of fiber art created by WGM members. The sale provides members with an opportunity to showcase and sell quality work, as well as connect with dedicated patrons who return to the sale every year.

In 2011, the Guild celebrated 37 years of holding Fiber Fair. Seventy artists were represented, and their work earned $47,000 in sales. The artists receive 75% of the sales, and WGM keeps 25% to cover the costs of the event.

A special ticketed opening night was offered to shoppers who wanted the benefit of buying items before the weekend crowd. Guild volunteers gave the shoppers an elegant evening complete with wine, hor’doeuvres, and personal shopping assistance. In conjunction with the sale, the Guild was thrilled to host the Tiffany Circle, women philanthropists of the American Red Cross.
Volunteerism

The Weavers Guild of Minnesota is very proud to have volunteering as a hallmark of our organization. Our Guild operates with two full-time and one part-time staff members and almost two hundred volunteers.

Our volunteers are comprised of members who serve between a few hours per week and an hour or two per month. They serve on the Board of Directors, manage the specialty store Fiber Source, maintain the Guild archives, coordinate exhibits, demonstrate during special events, bring weaving and spinning to community groups in their own neighborhoods, and so much more. Every volunteer hour is welcomed and greatly appreciated. Volunteers are recognized and celebrated at a banquet event in the spring.

In the past fiscal year, nearly 3000 volunteer hours were logged by WGM members.

Community Outreach

WGM Members served approximately 90,000 people through demonstrations and hands-on learning. Volunteers hosted groups at the Guild, like design classes from The Art Institute of Minneapolis and Century College. Volunteers demonstrated at Craftstravaganza, Shepherd’s Harvest Festival, Walker Art Center, Lyngblomsten Senior Care, and area libraries. The 2012 Minnesota State Fair marked a 60-year tradition of the Weavers Guild of Minnesota members demonstrating and exhibiting all days of the fair.

Study Groups

These support and focus groups are member-led, and they gather to discuss topics of specific interest. Some groups enjoy working on projects, culminating in an exhibit or a swap amongst study group members.

- Banditos (band-weaving)
- Dobby Weavers
- Draw Loom Weavers
- Rigid Heddle Study Group
- Rag Rug Study Group
- Scandinavian Weavers
- TuesDAY Spinners
- Whorling Spinsters

Guild Space

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. As needed, the Guild rents from the Textile Center the auditorium space for larger meetings and the state-of-the-art dye lab for classes and workshops.

Our classrooms are fully equipped with three dozen floor looms, a computerized loom, two dozen spinning wheels, frame and inkle looms, and tools for students and members to use. Most of the Guild’s study groups meet at the Textile Center to use the space and equipment. Members also use the classrooms as studio space to work on independent projects.

Celebration

The Guild’s longest-time member, Lila Nelson, celebrated her 90th birthday in April 2012. The Guild held a party for Lila in conjunction with the third annual silent auction. The party included a presentation of Lila’s prolific weavings, cupcakes, and bidding wars on the tapestries Lila donated to the auction. It was a great event for members and friends to get together and celebrate.

Members

Membership dues are $50 for one year. New members can join year-round, and renewals are completed during members’ anniversary months.

The following lists Guild members from September 2011 to August 2012.

Karen Aakre
Elizabeth Abbene
Ramona Abernathy-Paine
Carmelle Abron
Karen Agee
Sunday Andersen
Amy Andersen
Beverly Anderson
Felicia Anderson
Kathy Anderson
Marcia Anderson
Susan Andrews
Brenda Andrews
Elizabeth Anshansley-Leier
Mary Angell
Sarah Augenhaugh
Judy Avoles
Carolyn Azine
Peggy Baldwin
Geralyn Barosso
Ann Basquin
Ward Bauman
Orphy Beatte
Paula Beck
Carol Becker
Cecly Beierle
Carolyn Belle
Charles Benson
Sandra Bentley-Williams
Karen Berglund
Jean-Marie Bergman
Traudi Bestler
Mary Bishop
Sue Blodgett
Wendy Blomgren
Rebecca Bohiman
Sandy Boily
Jack Boman
Rachel Boucher
Becca Brackett
Linda Brandt
Janet Bratkovich
Judy Bratt
Deanna Brown
Lucy Brusie
Katherine Buenger
Ann Burgeson
Kimberly Burnham
Elizabeth Burr
Bonnie Buxa
Linda Flanagan
Betty Flannigan
Charlotte Forstie
Ann Forstie
Carole Forsyth
Ann Fox
Carla Franklin
Louise French
Beth Friedman
Nancy Fulton
Zoe Galaisit
Gale Woods Farm
Carol Gilborn
Therese Gimmesotd
Jane Goebel
Judy Goebel
Carolyn Golberg
Kathy Goldner
Neil Goman
Susan Goode
Andy Gorrell
Nancy Gossell
Kathryn Grafsgaard
Melba Granlund
Nedra Granlund
Celeste Grant
Donna Gravenes
Sarah Green
Ann Griggs
Gayle Groebner
JZ Grove
Wendy Guck
Angela Hagen
Joan R. Haglund
Duane Hansen
Patty Hansen
Donna Hanson
Nancy Hanson
Elizabett Harrington
Doris Hart
Roxanne Hart
Joyce Harter
Doreen Hartzell
Stephen Hauser
Ann Hauhild
Jan Hayman
Jon Hayman
Ellen Healy
Barbara Heath
Shirley Heebink
Stephen Heebink
Debbie Heilig
Devin Helmen
Susan Hensel
Shirley Herrick
Lori Hertzberg
Jo Hill
Carol Hoffman
Betty Hogan
Elise Howell
Patsy Huberty
Emily Hudson
Mary Huebner
Michaela Hull
Katherine Huntington
Robyn Husteby
Kathy Huset
Kimberly Hutchens
Francie Iverson
Sally Jacobsen
Nancy Jameson
Barb Jeffries
Karla Jennings
Angela Jerome-Tuckner
Audrey Johnson
Carol R. Johnson
Cindy Johnson
Cynthia Johnson
Dawn Johnson
Deb Johnson
Janet Johnson
Laurice Johnson
Linette Johnson
Patty Kuebler Johnson
Wayne Johnson
Wendy J. Johnson
Winnie Johnson
Jane Johnstone
Bill Jones
Nancy Jones
Jean Jordan
Kathleen Jordan
Jan Josiek
Pat Kasell
Joan-Hannah Kaytonah
Karen Kenny
Anne Keogh
Jon Ketokoski
Tiffany King
Eleanor Kline
Mary Krick
Carole Krutsch
Sue LaRosa
Robbie LaFleur
Anne Lageson
Carolyn Lageson
Kathleen Lamb
Rhonda Landt
Florence Larson
Judy Larson
Karen Larson
Susan Larson Fleming
Connie LaTendresse
Chillon Leach
Suzette Leisinger
Sandra Lichter
Sue Lige
Robbie LaFleur
Sue LaRosa
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Barbara McCoy
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Claire Most
Jan Mostrom
Jean Mueller
Terry Mueller
Lisa Murray
Andra Myklebust
Denise Neisz
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Susan Nelsen
Kathin Nelson
Janet M. Nelson
Kristin Nelson
Lila Nelson
Marjorie Nelson
Mary Nelson
Patrick Nelson
Julie Nester
Tonya Nichole
Jane Ann Nicholls
Janice Nordlund
Larry James Norgren
Penny Norman
Anna Matthews
Wynne Mattila
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Denise Neisz
Jan L. Nelson
Susan Nelsen
Kathin Nelson
Janet M. Nelson
Kristin Nelson
Lila Nelson
Marjorie Nelson
Mary Nelson
Patrick Nelson
Julie Nester
Tonya Nichole
Jane Ann Nicholls
Janice Nordlund
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Penny Norman
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Kathin Nelson
Janet M. Nelson
Kristin Nelson
Lila Nelson
Marjorie Nelson
Mary Nelson
Patrick Nelson
Julie Nester
Tonya Nichole
Jane Ann Nicholls
Janice Nordlund
Larry James Norgren
Penny Norman
Balance Sheet  
August 31, 2012

ASSETS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Operating Cash</th>
<th>$118,120</th>
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<tr>
<td>Cash Reserve</td>
<td>$76,222</td>
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<tr>
<td>Deferred Charges</td>
<td>$497</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Assets</td>
<td>$222,191</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

| Accounts Payable | $4348 |
| Deferred Revenue | $11,072 |
| Gift Certificates | $1,655 |
| Temporarily Restricted Net Assets | $120 |
| Equity | $204,996 |
| Total Liabilities & Equity | $222,191 |

ASSETS

- Operating Cash $118,120
- Cash Reserve $76,222
- Deferred Charges $497
- Total Assets $222,191

LIABILITIES & EQUITY

- Accounts Payable $4348
- Deferred Revenue $11,072
- Gift Certificates $1,655
- Temporarily Restricted Net Assets $120
- Equity $204,996
- Total Liabilities & Equity $222,191

Financial Report  
September 1, 2011-August 31, 2012

INCOME

- Tuition (Program) $68,633
- Government Grants $43,738
- Fiber Source Net $41,241
- Individual Contributions $27,502
- Admin. & Miscellaneous $9,061
- Total Income $229,340

EXPENSES

- Program $151,458
- Management $38,021
- Fundraising & Development $14,416
- Advertising $6,291
- Accounting Fees $2,590
- Total Expenses $225,536

Net Income $3,804
Contributions

The following list acknowledges those donors who contributed financially during September 1, 2011 to August 31, 2012. We are very grateful for all gifts.

We extend a special thank you to the Weavers Guild of Minnesota’s board of directors, for providing matching gifts during a special campaign. These generous gifts inspired many members to contribute to their Guild, and in total, nearly $10,000 was raised.

Pictured below: Louise French, 2010-2011 President (left); Minnesota State Representative Phyllis Kahn (center); Donna Gravesen, 2012-2013 President (right). In September 2011, the Metropolitan Regional Arts Council awarded the Guild $10,000 for Arts Activities Support.

Foundations & Government

Minnesota State Arts Board
Metropolitan Regional Arts Council
Harlan Boss Foundation for the Arts
Archie D. and Bertha Walker Foundation
Elmer L. and Eleanor J. Andersen Foundation
Smith Foundation

Corporate Matching Gifts

3M
General Mills Foundation
Prudential Foundation

$1000-$2499
Anonymous (2)
Paul O’Connor
Cindy Owen
Paula Pfaff

$500-$999
Anonymous (1)
Sue Bye
Louise French
Nancy Gossell
Donna Gravesen
Nancy Jones
Kathleen Jordan
Connie LaTendresse
Teresa Razidlo
Geri Retzlaff
Gordon Wilcox

$250-$499
Katherine Buenger
Bonnie Buzza
Susan Hensel
Francie Iverson
Patty Keubker Johnson
Kelly Marshall
Jere Thompson
John G. and Lois M. Welshons

$100-$249
Susan Andrews
Carolyn Azine
Mary Gleason Best
Peggy Baldwin
Jan Hayman
Jo Hill
Sharon Tessman Hoiland
Patsy Huberty
Wayne Johnson
Lisa Lund
Susan Mansfield
Wynne Mattila
Janet Meany

$10-$99
Anonymous (9)
Charles Benson
Elizabeth Brackett
Maria Damon
Sharla Donohue
Susan Emerson
Doug Erickens
Becky Franklin

$10-$99
Nancy Fulton
Nedra Granquist
Gayle Groebner
Katherine Grossman
JZ Grover
Elizabeth Harrington
Nancy Hanson
Ann Haushild
Ellen Healy
Robyn Husebye
Robbie LaFleur
Chillon Leach
Anne Lindgren
Patricia Lovegreen
Diane Luth
Rosemary MacFarlane

$10-$99
Linda Madden
Beth McLaughlin
Robyn Meadows
Arlene Monk
Barbara Moody
Lila Nelson
Laurie K. Olson
VaLinda Pearsons
Solveig Pollei
Judith Preckshot
Lynne Renz
Martha Riel
Leah Rogers
Cynthia Scott
Sally Scott
William Smale
Myrna Stahman

$100-$249
Nancy Menzel
Janice Mostrom
Jan L. Nelson
Janet M. Nelson
Julie Nester
Turid Ormseth
Maren Peterson
Keith Pierce
Madeline Shinbach
Mary Skoy
Ione Stein
Kim Vanderwall
Mary Wilcox
Roberta Zeug Shell

The following list acknowledges the donors who contributed items to the 3rd Annual Silent Auction in April 2012, as well as the winning bidders who took the items home. Close to $5,000 was raised from the auction.

Anonymous (1)
Brenda Andrews
Carolyn Azine
Peggy Baldwin
Traudt Bestler
Judy Bratt
Lucy Brusic
Katherine Buenger
Anne Burgeson
Kimberly Burnham
Bonnie Buzza
Sue Bye
Debra Caron
Carol Colburn
Jane Connott
Kala Esworthy
Becky Franklin
Louise French
Carolyn Golberg
Nancy Gosell
Nedra Granquist
Ann Griggs
Linda Hansen
Jan Hayman
Jon Hayman
Susan Hensel
Ruth Howell
Patsy Huberty
Francie Iverson
Carol R. Johnson
Winnie Johnson
Patty Kuebker Johnson
Kathleen Jordan
Robbie LaFleur
Judith Lang Main
Judy Larson
Chillon Leach
Sue Leizinger
Anne Lindgren
Kathy Mack
Kelly Marshall
Ann Masemore
Cathie Mayr
Linda Miller
Ashley Mulliken
Lisa Murray
Lila Nelson
Maryann Olme

Shelley Olsen
Cindy Owen
Jane Patrick
Steve Pauling
Paula Pfaff
Judith Preckshot
Lynne Renz
Geri Retzlaff
Larry Retzlaff
Ellen Richard
Nadine Sanders
Madeline Shinbach
Mary Skoy
Anita Smits
Mary Stelgrove
Carol St. John
Dianne Stiff
Judy Stowe
Jere Thompson
Emily Wise
Handweavers Guild of America
Board of Directors
2012-2013
Donna Gravesen, President
Ellen Richard, President-Elect
Margaret Baldwin, Secretary
Geri Retzlaff, Treasurer
Cathie Mayr, Past President
Jere Thompson, Membership Chair
Steve Pauling, Volunteer Coordinator
Peter Withoff
Jackie Lind
Gayle Groebner
Jan Hayman

Board of Directors
2011-2012
Cathie Mayr, President
Donna Gravesen, President-Elect
Margaret Baldwin, Secretary
Nancy Gossell, Treasurer
Louise French, Past President
Ellen Richard, Education Chair
Sue Bye, Development Rep
Jere Thompson, Membership Chair
Steve Pauling, Volunteer Coordinator
Peter Withoff
Jan Nelson
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