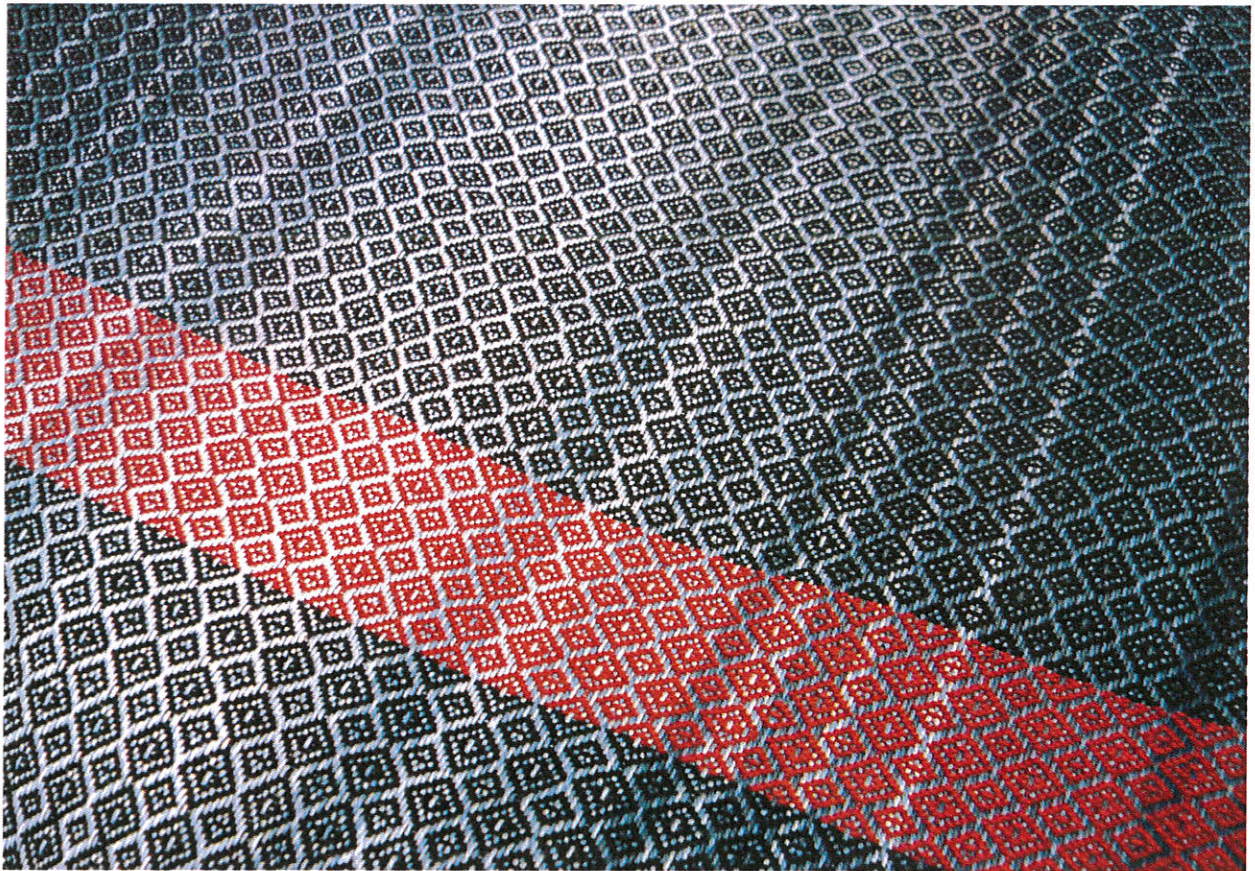


# **The Weavers Guild of Minnesota**

*Preserving and advancing the arts of weaving, spinning, and dyeing since 1940.*

## **Annual Report Fiscal Year 2016**

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### **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.

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## From our Board President, 2017



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.

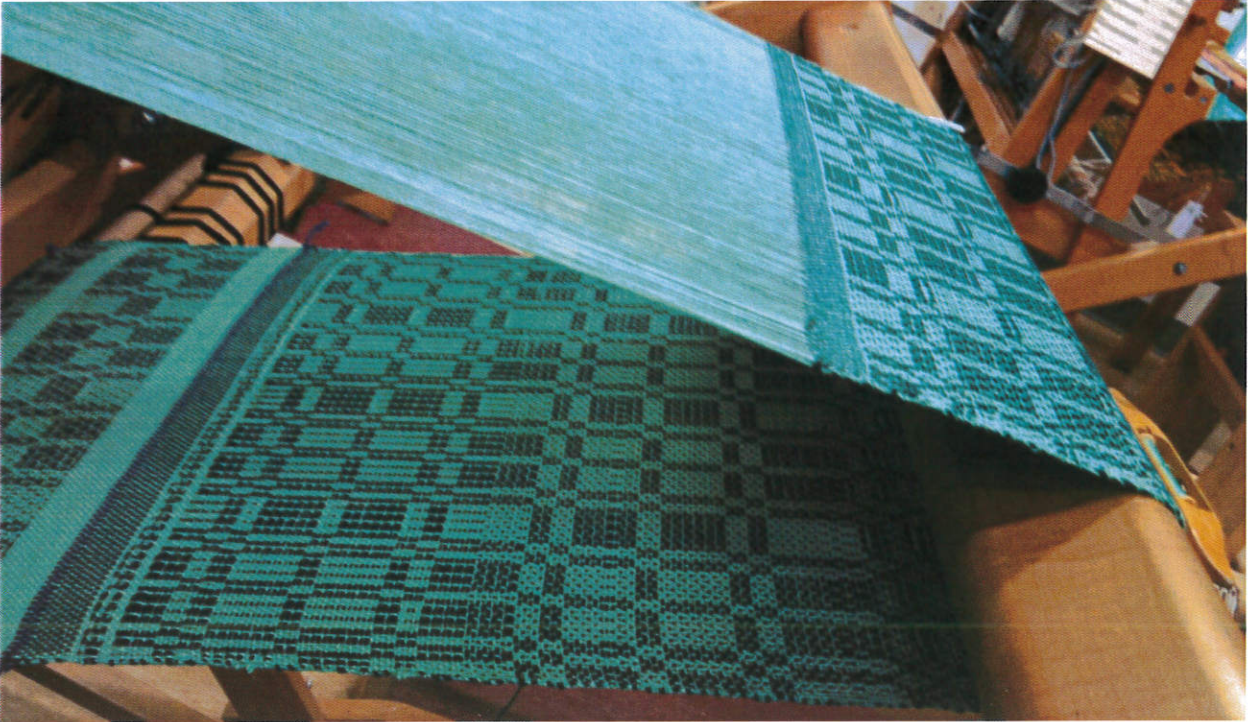
We are grateful for the continued support and hard work of our volunteers who do so much to make the Guild successful. Consider serving on a committee, helping to plan an exhibit, demonstrating at the various fairs and festivals, big and small, that look to the Guild to foster the love of spinning and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

Hope to see you soon.

**Susan Larson Fleming**  
**President, Weavers Guild of Minnesota**

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## Our Year



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.



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## 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.

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## Our Work



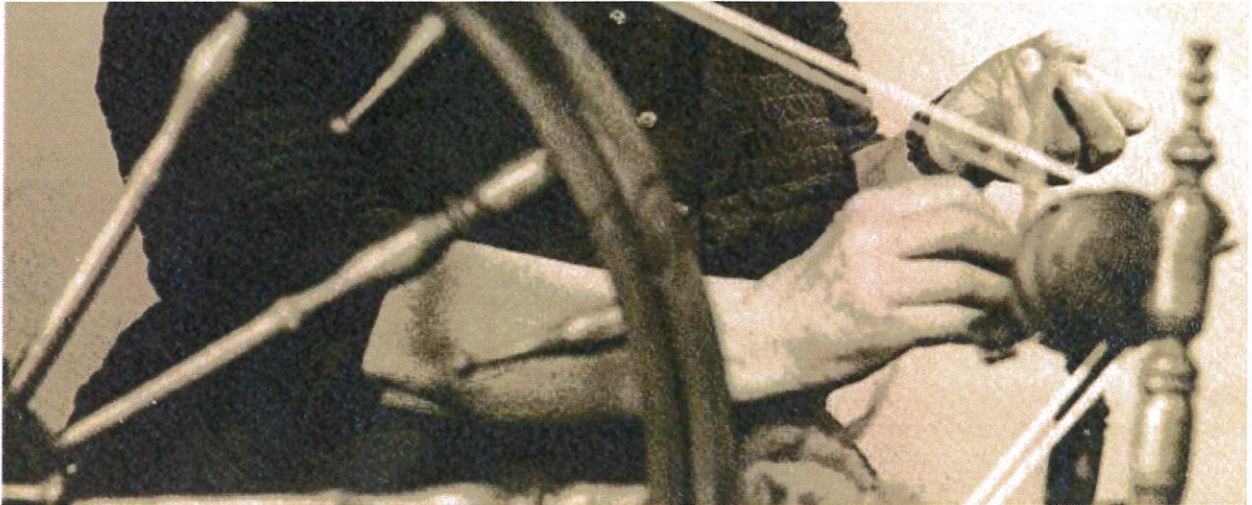
WGM is strategically addressing the initiatives and priorities we committed to in our WGM2020 strategic plan.

- 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; Bengala 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.



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## Our Heritage



In 1940 Hilma Berglund, Ester Downs and Mrs. George Glocker, 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 handcrafts and fiber art, and offers more than 125 classes each year in weaving, spinning and dyeing.

### **WGM Founders & Charter Members, 1940:**

Linda Ames  
Eleanor Anderson  
Harriet Barnum  
Hilma Berglund  
Agnes Bowen  
Marion Bussey  
Martha Claussen  
Mrs. Harvey Fuller  
Esther Downs  
Mrs. George Glocker  
Mrs. F.F. Grout  
Helen Larkin  
Savetta Livingston

Shirley Miller  
Elinor Milton  
Grace Montgomery  
Mrs. H.D. Meyers  
Andrea Nelson  
Mrs. M.B. Ogle  
Felix Payant  
Mrs. Curtis H. Pomeroy  
Emma Roberts  
Helen Stafford  
Florence Stanley  
Florence Willets  
Mrs. Harry Zimmermann

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## Our Support & Financials



WGM 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

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### **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	Fox, Ann	LaFleur, Robbie
Andersen, Amy	Fulton, Nancy	Lake, Sarah
Anderson, Christine	Garcia, Mia	Larson-Fleming, Susan
Anderson, Emily	Goebel, Judy	Larson, Chris
Anderson, Kathy	Graff, Cindy	Larson, Karen
Andrews, Susan	Grafsgaard, Kathryn	Larson, Linda
Azine, Carolyn	Granquist, Nedra	LaTendresse, Connie
Baldwin, Peggy	Gravesen, Donna	Leach, Chillon
Batson, Cheryl	Groebner, Gayle	Lee, Ann
Bauch, Lisa	Haglund, Joan R.	Legg, Dianne
Beck, Paula	Hahn, Leslie	Lehman, Karen
Behr, Lila	Hansen, Patty	Leister, Marilyn
Berg, Terry	Harrington, Elizabeth	Lind, Jackie
Berlin, Nancy	Hart, Doris	Lindgren, Anne
Blodgett, Sue	Haugen, Karen	Lininger, Andy
Boman, Jack	Haushild, Ann	Litterick, Ruth
Bot-Miller, Sandy	Hayman, Jan	Lund, Lisa
Bowman, Leslie	Heath, Barbara	Lurye, Bonnie
Bratt, Judy	Heikkila, Beth	Lutz, Hazel
Brusic, Lucy	Heilig, Debbie	MacFarlane, Rosemary
Buenger, Katherine	Hensel, Susan	Mack, Kathy
Bulthuis, Robert	Hines, Traci	Madden, Linda
Burgeson, Anne	Hoiland, Sharon	Majerus, Georgia
Buzza, Bonnie	Holmes, Karen	Mambi, Nancy
Bye, Dennis	Householder, Steven	Mansfield, Susan
Campbell, Connie	Hovermale, Karen	Marquardt, Sharon
Caughey, Paula	Howell, Elise	Marshall, Kelly
Clack, Rose	Huberty, Patsy	Mattila, Wynne
Clark, Kristina	Hughes, Cathleen	Maxvill, Vierlyn
Colberg, Dorothy	Iverson, Francie	Mayr, Cathie
Collins, Cynthia	Jacobson, Barbara	McGlynn, Rita
Connett, Jane	Jeffery, Molly	McLaughlin, Beth
Czaia, Janet	Johnson, Camille	Meany, Janet
Daiker, Barbara	Johnson, Cynthia	Miller, Alison
Dailey, Elizabeth	Johnson, Janet	Miller, Cynthia
Davis, Pamela	Johnson, Wayne	Miller, Margaret
Delak, Carol	Jones, Nancy	Minola, Jean
Deriaz, Kim	Jordan, Kathleen	Moenck, Mary Ann
Drake, Denise	Kaytonah, Hannah	Monk, Arlene
Dunse, Brenda	Kearnan, Nancy	Moore, Marilyn
Dutcher, Lynn	Kelley, Nancy	Mortenson, Mary
Edmund, Marcella	Keogh, Anne	Mostrom, Janice
Emerson, Sue	Kiefer, Molly Sutton	Murphy, Tara
Exworthy, Kala	Kleven, J	Mykelbust, Andrea
Fearn, Judy	Kline, Eleanor	Neisz, Denise
Fitzgerald, Joyce	Kohn, Theresa	Neisz, Hans



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Nelson, Jan  
Nelson, Janet M.  
Nelson, Lila  
Nelson, Mark  
Nester, Julie  
Newberg, Janet  
Niehaus, AJ  
Novak, Deb  
O'Brien, Chiaki  
Olsen, Kevin  
Olson, Margaret  
Ormseth, Turid Aavik  
Otten, Meg  
Owen, Cindy  
Pauling, Steve  
Pavlik, Anna  
Payne, Judy  
Peterson, Janelle  
Peterson, Lisa

Pfaff, Paula  
Pierce, Keith  
Pollei, Solveig  
Preckshot, Judith  
Preckshot, Nancy  
Quinn, Kathleen  
Radman, Aimee  
Razidlo, Teresa  
Renz, Lynne  
Retzlaff, Geri  
Richard, Ellen  
Samsel, Kristine  
Sanders, Nadine  
Schneider, Lynne  
Schweb, Jill  
Scott, Cynthia  
Sem, Solveig  
Severson, Dawn  
Skoog, Eleanor

Skoy, Mary  
Slagel, Terry  
Smale, William  
Smith, Lori  
Stensvaag, Nancy  
Stiff, Dianne  
Stinson, Sally  
Stowe, Judy  
Sverdrup, J  
Swanton, Karen  
Swierzbin, Bonnie  
Syverson, Diane  
Syverson, Nathan  
Thompson, Jere  
Thornquist, Lisa  
Torkelson, Evelyn  
Torvik, Lisa



### **FY 2016 In-Kind Donations**

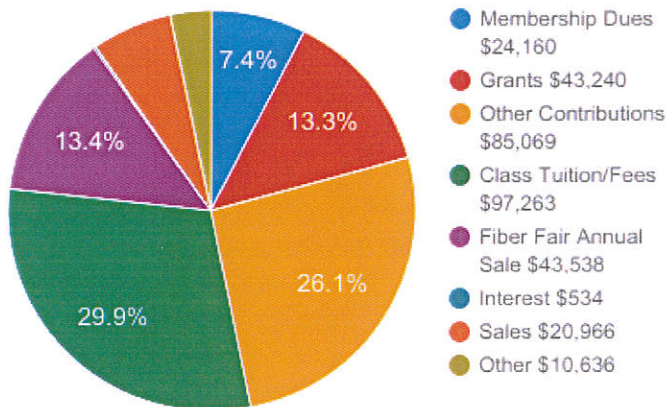
The Guild benefits greatly from donations of items related to weaving and spinning. WGM volunteers assess the items for use in the Guild or price them to sell. The proceeds support the Guild's operations and programming.

- Donated yarn \$11,060
- Donated books \$1,685
- Donated equipment \$16,441

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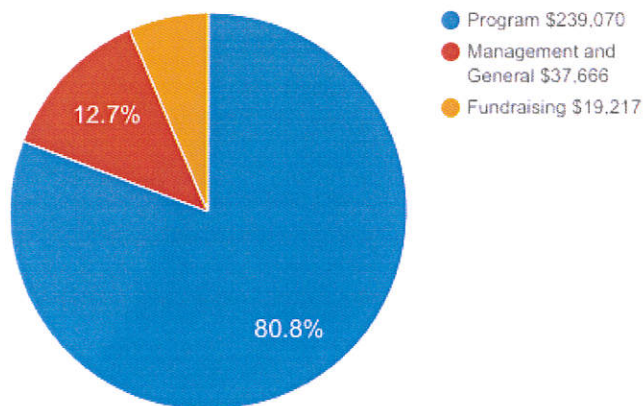
## FY2016 Income and Expenses

### INCOME



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

### EXPENSES



**TOTAL**      **\$295,953** (Prior Year: \$270,750)



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.

## OFFICERS

## DIRECTORS

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

Becky Franklin, Managing Director  
Karin Knudsen, Guild Coordinator (starting March 2016)  
Jennifer Nicklay, Education Coordinator

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## 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.





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## 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."

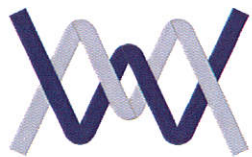
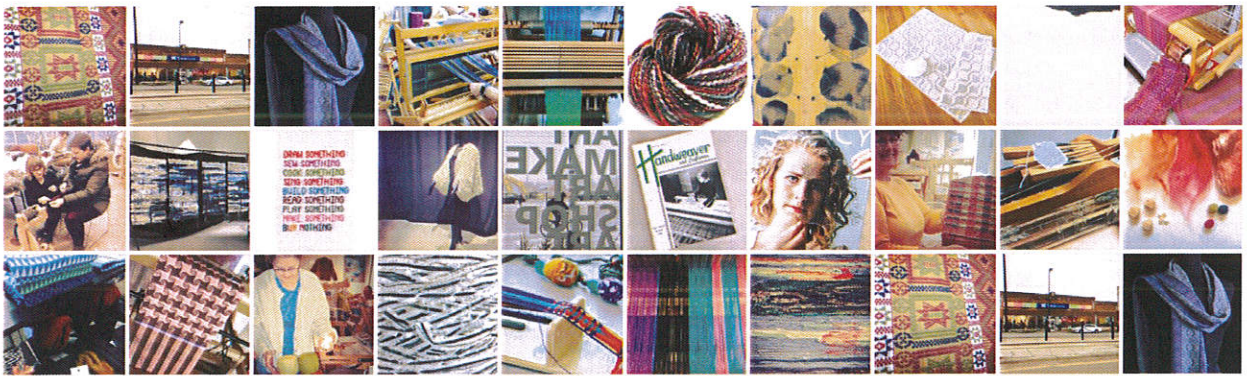


"It's a cheery space to come to create, to learn new techniques or ideas, to have help solving problems, to buy yarn, and to see friends who also love fibers."

"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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