



The Weaving, Spinning & Fiber Arts Guild
of Idaho Falls Studio
482 Constitution Way, Suite B-11
PO Box 1522
Idaho Falls, ID 83403
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Roving's, Ravelings and Thrums

The Weaving, Spinning & Fiber Art Guild of Idaho Falls

"Sharing A Love of Fiber Arts!"

December 2015

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Up-Coming Events & Classes

Unless otherwise specified, events are held at The Studio, 482 Constitution Way Suite B-11, Idaho Falls, Idaho 83403

Studio Night — *Members and visitors* are welcome every Tuesday evening from 7:00 PM to 9:00 PM at **482 Constitution Way, Suite B-11** same building just down the hall. Bring your wheel or a project and join for an evening of fun & chat. Ring the bell below the left front window if the front door is locked.

Join us for Studio Day/Lunch

Please join us at The Noodle Company **Thursday, December 10th**, at 11:30 a.m. then over to the Studio. RSVP to Suzanne @ sriche@aol.com or 528-9467 By Wed. . All are welcome to attend.

Hookers Take a Break

The Rug Hooking group has decided to take a break for the Holidays, so will not be meeting their usual 4th Wednesday afternoon (1 – 3) until January. Enjoy the holidays everyone!

The next meeting is scheduled for January 27, 2016!

Guild **Christmas Party**, December 12, 11 am. Please bring a potluck dish to share, wear your ugly Christmas sweater (there will be a prize!) a fibery-ish gift to exchange and your party spirit.

Warm Fuzzies

Remember that box of items knit, woven, crocheted, etc. that we've been collecting from our talented members? There were hats, gloves, socks, scarves etc. – some very nice items to keep one warmer in this cold winter. They have now been distributed thanks to the help of Elizabeth Cogliati. Through her church she found a coat drive sponsored by Mercury Communication where items would be collected and be distributed through local charities. So they will be of use to people in our area. Thank you Elizabeth for collecting and delivering the warm fuzzies. It seems like a nice idea to keep collecting items to be put in the box at the studio and we can contribute again next winter. Thanks also to everyone who made a donation to that box this year.

Finishing the Rug

Progress has been made on the rag rug project at the studio. The second rug is turning out even prettier than the first one. When you get a chance, take a look at it on the big loom in the back of the studio. Thanks again to Barbara Bradley for her generous donation of the cut strips we've been using for the rugs.

SAVE THE DATE:

March 12, Spring Spin-In

The Next Board Meeting will be January 7th at 11:00 a.m. in the Studio.

In at the Guild library —check it out

Charlotte Goddin, Guild Librarian

This month will be a rerun of a previous review, along the lines of when Madelyn van der Hoogt is off teaching a weaving class and unavailable to answer a question, except that I'm not anywhere teaching a class! Nonetheless...

We do have some new "spinning minded" members, so hopefully this will introduce them to some of our library materials.

The Guild has several spinning videos. We hope you will check them out.

If you are just starting out, you may be interested in "Drop Spindle Spinning" by Melda Montgomery. You will learn how to spin on the spindle, wind the yarn onto your hand for plying, and how to ply on the spindle.

"Spinning Wool – Basic and Beyond; Wheel, Fiber Preparation & Spinning Techniques" by Patsy Zawistoski is for the beginning to intermediate spinner. It begins with a thorough explanation of the spinning wheel and how it works. She goes on to provide a detailed explanation of single drive band, double drive band and bobbin lead spinning wheels; as well as wheel set-up, fiber preparation and how to spin various fiber preparations. Pre-drafting, the importance of understanding wraps per inch, how to use a control yarn, and ply's.

"Spinning Exotic Fibers & Noverly Yarns" by Judith MacKenzie is a how to for spinning exotic fibers including camel, llama, alpaca, cashmere, angora, dog, rabbit, and quiviuet from the Musk Ox. Novelty yarns (spiral, gimped, boucle, Turkish knot, & cocoon) using a combination of fibers and spinning techniques (including frosting and encasement) are addressed.

"The Gentle Art of Plying" by Judith MacKenzie teaches how to make your equipment work for you from yarn storage devices to pully choices to optimum tension. She teaches yarn structure and how that affects the textile you make from them; as well as both avoiding and correcting errors and customizing and enhancing commercial yarns.

"Popular Wheel Mechanics" by Judith MacKenzie teaches:

- How wheel size influences spinning;
- How the shape of the flyer affects your spinning;
- Why your hooks are on the same side of the flyer;
- Why a pulley is not a whorl;
- How to spin six different yarns by making simple wheel adjustments;
- How to fill a flyer properly and why it matters.

Spinning is a group activity. It is fun to sit around with others who are spinning and talk. Even knitting can be done with others (unless you are knitting lace and then no one better bother me). But weaving seems to be a solitary activity. You certainly can't take your loom places (unlike knitting needles or a spinning wheel) and you generally work alone when you warp your loom or sit weaving for hours. Many of us listen to music when we weave or maybe books on "tape" (boy, am I aging myself). But I would like to suggest that weaving itself is a solitary activity, but weavers don't need to be solitary.

Recently I was feeling a little sluggish about my weaving. I wasn't really excited about doing any weaving. My looms were just sitting there with projects half done, and I just couldn't get myself to sit down and weave. I even thought for a moment that maybe I should just move on and sell all my weaving stuff because I was loosing interest. I went to the Warped Weavers on a Wednesday morning and we all talked about projects that we were working on or wanting to work on. We talked about different structures, materials and color. We all complained that we were terrible at choosing color and how we wanted a class on color in weaving. We talked about a new book that was out and how we wanted this book or that to add to our library. And you know what? I left that little group of people and said a prayer of thankfulness for those wonderful women. I was so excited to weave. I had a whole list in my mind of projects that I wanted to do and yarn that I wanted to work with. I couldn't wait to get home and finish up with that scarf and start another one.

I am still excited about weaving weeks later. I did finish that scarf and am threading my loom for the next one. I have finished one towel on the other loom and am about ready to start the second of the three that are threaded on that loom. I sit at my looms and am so grateful for those other weavers that keep me excited. So may I suggest to all those weavers out there that think that weaving is a solitary activity, to reach out to other weavers and talk. Exchange ideas and dreams of weaving that lace shawl or whatever. You will find new excitement in your weaving and a connection that will warm your heart as you sit alone at the loom weaving a dream.

Mary Ellen

A history of the Sabina loom

I started all of this searching because I own a loom that has a metal tag on the side of the castle that says "Sabina Folding Loom, Developed by G. P. January, Loom Craft Studio, Wilmington Ohio, R. T. Brophil, Chicago Manufacturer." I turned to the Weaver's Friend and Janet Meany to find a little out about the loom and she sent me a packet of photo copies about the Januarys and the Sabina Loom. As I read over the sheets of paper I saw so many connections. I, at one time, lived in Fairborn, Ohio which is maybe 20 miles as the crow flies away from Sabina and Wilmington. Russell Groff use to come to our own Snake River Fiber Fair and I met and talked with him several times. He even told me about learning to weave in a hospital in Chicago when he returned from Europe during WWII. I owned the Sabina loom when I met him and if I had only known then what I now know, I could have learned so much of the history of this wonderful loom. I also found references that said that Marjorie January took lessons from Mary Meigs Atwater and met and worked with Marguerite Davison, whom I admire so much for her work A Handweaver's Pattern Book.

So the story goes like this:

In 1933, a Mr. E. Gilmore received the patent on a new weaving loom system called the "Jack loom". Instead of the traditional countermarche system that lifted and dropped individual shafts, this new system produced a rising shed using jacks instead of two sets of lamms. Thus, this new loom had a much smaller footprint, was much shorter and could fit into smaller spaces. It also allowed more complex patterns with easier tie-ups. The Gilmore loom went into production in 1936 with the birth of the Gilmore Loom Company in Stockton, California.

At about this same time Garnett Peele January and his wife, Marjorie decided to retire from the Peele family farm near Sabina, Ohio. Needing to find something to do, they decided to weave rugs. They had seen weaving done on a trip to the southern states several years before, and Marjorie had studied art and clothing design. They searched and finally found an old loom that took up a lot of room in the old farmhouse. Friends that visited the January's home voiced interest in weaving, but complained that they would never have room for such a huge loom. Garnett set down to design a loom that was smaller, more versatile, and able to be moved easily.

In 1939, G. P. January received the patent on his own version of the jack loom. This loom employed the jack mechanism much like the loom developed by Gilmore. It worked by stepping on a treadle which pulled down a lamm and in turn activated the jacks which lifted the shafts. Mr. January's loom also folded, allowing it to be moved from room to room with a warp still on the loom. This new loom was named the Sabina Loom after its home town. It was made of local wild cherry and had an innovative bench that rocked with the movement of the weaver, allowing hours at the loom without discomfort. He also designed a "no pull shuttle" and a "swinging tensioner".

Then in 1944, Garnett and Marjorie moved to Wilmington, Ohio and opened the Loom Craft Studio where they built the Sabina loom, taught weaving classes and sold handwoven items. Many students of the local Wilmington College, a small Quaker school, worked at the studio, either helping to build the looms themselves, doing weaving or paperwork. The Loom Craft Studio also employed handicapped individuals in the community giving them dignity and a job to support their families. A story is told of a man by the name of George Crowe, who had been injured in a truck accident and could not walk without crutches. It is said that he assisted G. P. and was able to assemble looms by himself. Fairly soon after arriving in Wilmington the Januarys began to teach weaving at the college itself, with classes being held in the basement of the library.

The Sabina loom was used widely in schools, hospitals and health agencies, where Gladys Rogers Brophil came across the looms. Mrs. Brophil was a nurse who worked extensively with patients in Chicago who were recuperating after contracting rheumatic fever. Many of her patients were children and she worked tirelessly to help these children to find joy in play and meaningful activities. She must have also worked with soldiers returning from WWII in various occupational therapy programs because she seems to have worked with Russell Groff in his convalescence after he contracted rheumatic fever during the war and returned to a hospital in the Chicago area.

In 1946, Gladys Brophil and her husband Robert traveled to Wilmington to visit the Loom Craft Studio and the Januarys. They picked up loom accessories for the programs that Gladys was a part of back in Chicago. Sometime between then and 1953, Roger Brophil bought the right to manufacture the Sabina loom in his workshop in Chicago. He continued to build the loom out of cherry until 1956 when they sold the rights to Norwood Looms in Fremont, Michigan. Norwood Looms continued to build the loom, still out of cherry, until 1996 when the company closed its doors. The patent was then sold to Webs, who had the loom built by Toika in the Netherlands out of birch. The jack loom was not popular in Europe and the company stopped building it shortly thereafter.

During this same time (1949) the Brophils began publishing a magazine called Warp and Weft. The publication was picked up in 1950 by Norwood Looms who published it for several years until 1955 when Russell Groff of Robin and Russ began publishing the periodical. Robin and Russ also published several other items done by Mrs. Brophil during these years.

I am amazed at how so many of the things of our lives are woven together creating a fabric that, if we could step back and see it, the intricacy of the pattern would be beautiful. I weave because I feel a connection with the past, the weavers who have paved the way, who have sat at a loom and dreamed of beautiful things. I love my Sabina loom, the glow of the cherry wood and how easy she works. Now I love it even more as it has such a rich heritage of those years that brought weaving back to the American conscience. As I sit here at this beautiful loom I can see a part of that fabric that binds weavers together over the years.

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Link on website: \$25.00/yr.

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Your Newsletter advertisement will be posted on our web-site as well.

Advertise on the Guild Website:

To add your web-site link to our favorite Links page —\$25.00 per year.

For those who don't have a web-site, we'll post you a Full page and a link for \$50.00 per year.

If you are not currently receiving “Roving's, Ravelings & Thrums” via email, please send an email to Suzanne at sriche@aol.com requesting the Guild newsletter which is sent monthly.

The newsletter can be downloaded and is posted each month at: <http://srfiberartists.org>

WANTED

Any outgoing or shy person/persons interested in any or all of the following:

- Knitting
- Spinning
- Weaving
- Crocheting
- Rug Hooking
- Combing

- Carding
- Raising of fiber animals and/or plants
- Dyeing

No prior experience required. Unlimited openings. All skill levels welcomed with open arms. No application need be completed, however there is a registration form to complete and a small fee (\$25.00 for an individual or \$32.50 for a family) is charged. A registration form is included on page 5 of this newsletter for your convenience.

Please send your payment to:

The Weaving, Spinning & Fiber Arts

Guild of Idaho Falls

482 Constitution Way, Suite B-11

PO Box 1522

Idaho Falls, Id 83403

Contact Suzanne LeMay-Riché at :

“sriche@aol.com” or Call 208.528-9467 & leave a msg.

Guild has renewed it's membership to the Northwest Weaver's Guild. Go to their site at www.northwestweavers.org to be informed of your membership benefits. You may check out videos, tapes and books and many other benefits.



If you are a member of Ravelry.com, check out the following groups!

The Association of Northwest Weavers' Guilds (ANWG)—which you a member of, if you are a Guild member—has a group for you to participate in. There is a forum that discusses fiber, weaving, knitting etc. The **group** name is: "Association of Northwest Weavers".

Check out our own group! Snake River Fiber Fair 2014. Stay up to date on all things pertaining to the Fiber Fair.

Studio Hosts:

Dec. 15—Kathie

Dec. 22—Elizabeth

Dec. 29—Susan

Jan. 5—Laurel

BOARD MEMBERS

THE NEWSLETTER

DEADLINE IS ON

THE 25TH OF THE

MONTH

Basket Class a Success!

Eleven class members completed their individual Notebook Basket each with their own "flare" of design. One of the fun things about teaching a basket class is that each person begins with the same directions and basic materials and each basket is a one of a kind! It was a long working day at the studio on November 14th but each student either completely finished or was very nearly finished with their basket by the end of the day. They all turned out great and hopefully will be used and enjoyed for years to come. Certainly everyone should be very proud of their accomplishments!

Kathie



Marisa's first basket.



Claire and 2 young basket makers.



Spreading out.



Other basket makers.



Caryl Frugoili, new member.

December 2015

Sun

Mon

Tue

Wed

Thu

Fri

Sat

		<i>1</i> Studio Night 7 -9 pm	<i>2</i>	<i>3</i>	<i>4</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>6</i>	<i>7</i>	<i>8</i> Studio Night 7 -9 pm	<i>9</i>	<i>10</i> Studio Luncheon 11:30 am,	<i>11</i>	<i>12</i> Christmas Party 11 am
<i>13</i>	<i>14</i>	<i>15</i> Studio Night 7-9 pm	<i>16</i>	<i>17</i>	<i>18</i>	<i>19</i>
<i>20</i>	<i>21</i>	<i>22</i> Studio Night 7-9 pm	<i>23</i>	<i>24</i>	<i>25</i>	<i>26</i>
<i>27</i>	<i>28</i>	<i>29</i> Studio Night 7-9 pm	<i>30</i>	<i>31</i>		



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Because of the cost of mailing and printing, we regret that we will no longer be mailing the newsletter. It is posted for download online each month at www.srfiberartists.org and can be emailed to you as a pdf. Email us a request to receive an email copy of the newsletter with your name to "sriche@aol.com". We often broadcast changes & updates through email. Copies will also be available at the Studio. Emails are not shared. Don't miss out!

COME ENJOY THE BENEFITS OF GUILD MEMBERSHIP

Dues are \$25 for individuals and \$32.50 for families. Dues may be mailed to: The Weaving, Spinning, & Fiber Arts Guild of Idaho Falls, P.O. Box 1522, Idaho Falls, ID 83403.

Please add your email address so we can send your newsletter via email. [Www.srfiberarts.org](http://www.srfiberarts.org) (emails will not be shared for any other use)

Membership Application

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Address _____

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